FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS

NC141015 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0515 GMT 14 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization Political Department, has said that he expects a meeting to be held between brother Commander Abu 'Ammar and Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. Abu al-Lutf said: We are working to convene such a meeting.

Meanwhile, brother Abu al-Lutf expressed fear of an escalation in Zionist attacks against the south so as to undermine the reconciliation between the authorities and the resistance. He affirmed that the Palestinian revolution scrupulously avoids an explosion of the situation in Lebanon, adding that the revolution wants detente to prevail in this country. Furthermore, our friends--headed by the Soviet Union--support our views.

Brother Abu al-Lutf again announced that the resistance adheres to the agreements signed with the authorities.

In praising the latest French initiative in connection with the Palestinian people's cause, brother Abu al-Lutf said: This initiative does not conflict with the Soviet role in the Middle East; on the contrary, it promotes it.

Brother Abu al-Lutf disclosed that brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Paris would take place, but had been postponed for some time, because there was disagreement on some matters; one of these is the draft joint statement which contains some topics that must be studied.

Brother Abu al-Lutf found the present stand of the U.S. administration inconsistent. He said: The next U.S. President must take new positions on several issues, including the Palestine question now that confusion and retraction have appeared in the U.S. stand, particularly on the Jerusalem issue.

He added that the present U.S. retraction is the result of pressures put on the United States by the Zionist lobby, and not the result of the multiplicity of views within the U.S. administration.

Brother Abu al-Lutf noted that brother commander Abu 'Ammar will visit Japan when he receives an official invitation by the Japanese Government.

The above statements are contained in an interview in the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR of the brother head of the PLO Political Department.

JORDANIAN PAPER SAYS SYRIAN BORDER OPEN TO FEDAYEEN ACTION

JN191009 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Mar 80 pp 1, 13 JN

[Text] Damascus--Agencies--A well-informed source in Damascus has stated that President Hafiz al-Asad told several leaders of the Palestinian resistance groups who met with him in Damascus recently that the cease-fire zone, that is the Golan Heights, has been and continues to be open to fedayeen operations against Israel. The source cites the Syrian president as saying: Why doesn't the resistance make use of this opportunity? Why don't the fedayeen proceed to Israel via Syria?

In the past few weeks, President al-Asad has met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PFLP leader George Habash, PFLP General Command leader Ahmad Jibril and Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The same source says that President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to him that the decision to open the cease-fire line to fedayeen action was and continues to be in force and that Syria will extend all the necessary facilities for any fedayeen action against Israel through its territory, in addition to all other facilities that Syria makes available to the Palestinian resistance groups.

A Palestinian source in Damascus has also stated that the Syrian cease-fire line has been opened to Palestinian operations in the occupied land. The same source added that this measure is not new, since Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has often affirmed that the Palestinian resistance can carry out operations through this line at any time. The source said that this issue was recently raised by the Syrian president during his talks with 'Arafat and other Palestinian officials, particularly Habash and Jibril.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTACKS U.S. POSITION ON PALESTINE

NC190931 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0515 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] Executive Committee met at noon yesterday. Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, presided over this meeting.

The conferees specifically examined the U.S. position on the Palestinian problem and the U.S. retraction on the recent Security Council resolution condemning settlement in the occupied territories.

At the conclusion of its meeting, the committee issued the following statement: At the meeting which it held on 18 March 1980, the PLO Executive Committee discussed the serious stand the United States has taken against the Palestinian people's rights and their just cause, particularly in the recent period. This position has been taken through the retractions and statements which President Carter is making to satisfy election pressures and in favor of the Zionist usurpation and its acts of aggression and crimes.

The Executive Committee paused for a long time vis-a-vis this serious position which the United States is taking, thus not only defying Palestinian national feelings, but also all the Arab nation's feelings.

In vehemently condemning these continuing U.S. hostile stands against the Arab nation in general and against the Palestinian people in particular, the PLO Executive Committee urges our whole Arab nation to take a firm stand against such serious positions, which flagrantly expose the aggressive intentions which the United States is harboring against the Arab nation and its central cause; that is, Palestine. The committee also affirms that this policy is a permanent one and a continuing plan by American imperialism and its stepdaughter, world Zionism. Furthermore, this policy is part of this plan formulated against our Arab nation.

The committee adds that in view of these momentous events and of this devastating danger surrounding our Arab nation--be it through the U.S. political statements or through the aggressive military movements--it is imperative for the Arab nation to stand steadfast and united against the things which endanger its future and security and its interests and rights, first and foremost the liberation of Palestine and of holy Jerusalem. Furthermore, it is imperative for our nation to work in a serious and well-considered way to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to determine their own fate and to set up their independent state on their national soil.

FATAH'S ABU AL-HASAN DENIES IRANIAN AID TO REVOLUTION

LD181513 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Mar 80 pp 1, 11 LD

[Najib 'Abd al-Hadi report: "Iraq and Resistance Deny Tendentious London Reports"]

[Excerpt] The London SUNDAY TIMES in a single issue published two reports with a single aim: to create division among the Arabs and a rift between the Iranians and theAArabs.

The first report spoke of battles in Baghdad between the Iraqi Army and pro-Iranian elements, which Iraq has officially denied. The second was about an agreement between the PLO and Iran under which the latter pays the former $2 for every barrel of oil in return for services which the PLO renders to Tehran. This report has also been denied by the PLO.

In Kuwait, Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Council member, commented on the alleged Iranian-Palestinian agreement. He said: Following the political gains the PLO has achieved on the international level it has now become the target of a vicious propaganda campaign launched by Zionist quarters and financed by Jewish funds.

He added: The PLO has time and again declared that it will not accept aid from any source if such aid is conditional. Al-Hasan affirmed that there is no agreement between the PLO and Iran. All there is are militant and political relations based on Iran's hostile stand toward Israel, Zionism and U.S. policy. Al-Hasan added: The PLO and the Fatah movement in particular have already declared that they refuse the principle of "hired leadership." The PLO's relations with a certain Arab country [Libya] recently became strained because of strings attached to financial aid which this country was offering. We preferred to lose this aid rather than accept any conditions, not even from a sisterly Arab state. So far Iran has not given any financial aid to the Palestinian revolution although we believe that such aid is bound to come and when it comes it will be unconditional.

QATARI PAPER REPORTS PLOT AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON

JN181230 Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Doha, 18 March--Today the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB cites well informed Palestinian sources as saying that the Palestinian revolution security organs were able to uncover a serious plot to carry the conflict inside the national regions of Lebanon, as a prelude to weakening the Palestinian revolution and the national Lebanese movement with peripheral battles.

Referring to the recent clashes between Fatah and the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal organization in the Al-Awza'i area, the paper says that these clashes give the Zionist enemy and those in collusion with him the opportunity to start a battle against the resistance before the final date of the autonomy talks, set for 26 May. The Palestinian sources added that this plot is based on bringing the situation to a head in several regions and then attacking the positions of the resistance and its supporters in Beirut.

The sources explained that these operations are being carried out by a suspect organ that calls itself Al-Husayn's Suicide Squads [Kata'ib al-Husayn al-Intihariyah], in an attempt to claim affiliation with the Shi'ite sect, which has always supported the Palestinian revolution. The Palestinian sources told the paper that the revolution security organs have a full list of the names of this grouping. There are 65 persons in it, some of them belonging to sects other than the Shi'ite and some of them residing in the eastern sector of Beirut, which explains the reason the alias "Al-Husayn" was assumed.

The sources asserted that the Palestinian resistance has forwarded this information to the Amal movement command, which vehemently denied any ties with this grouping.

The sources added that both sides have agreed on coordination among them, in order to thwart this plot against the resistance and the Lebanese National Movement, including the Amal organization.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

NC180718 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar last night received UN Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart. During the meeting, which was attended by PLO representatives at the United Nations Zuhayr at-Tarazi and Fatah movement foreign relations officer Abu Hatim, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question and the situation in south Lebanon.

Following the 2-hour meeting, Urquhart said: As usual, we held useful and comprehensive talks with the chairman of the PLO. We heard his views on the general issue, which is important for us as far as the issue of south Lebanon is concerned, and also as far as the overall aspects of the Middle East issue are concerned.

VOP: BOMB DAMAGES MILITARY BUS STATION NEAR JERUSALEM

NC171610 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] This morning, a group of our revolutionaries planted a booby trap bomb inside the military bus station near Qiryat Yovel in the vicinity of occupied Jerusalem. The bomb exploded at 0630, resulting in unspecified injuries among the enemy and material damages to the station, a military vehicle and the electrical network in the area.

Some Palestinian citizens were arrested in the wake of the incident, while enemy patrols combed institutions in the area in a search for additional bombs.

Our revolutionaries returned safely to base.

OMAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR TALKS IN SAN'A'

LD182042 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, left the country this morning for San'a' on a 2-day official visit to the Yemen Arab Republic. His excellency the under secretary is carrying a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to his excellency Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the YAR president. He will hold talks with YAR Government officials in line with the consultations and (?exchanges of views) between the two fraternal countries. He was seen off at the airport by his excellency the deputy chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry and His Excellency 'Ali Hasan (al-Qanna), YAR charge d'affaires in Muscat.

PDRY

PLO'S SALAH KHALAF MEETS WITH PREMIER

LD171552 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has hailed the continuous successes scored by the Palestinian revolution under PLO leadership toward the achievement of the goals and hopes of the fraternal Palestinian people. This is what he said in a discussion with brother Abu Iyad, member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah. The brother premier expressed his confidence that the problems and plots confronting the Palestine revolution would be foiled. In this connection he explained that the normalization of relations between Egypt and the Zionist entity constitute a threat not only to the Arab people in Egypt and the Palestinian revolution but also to the other Arab peoples. It is accordingly necessary to counter the threat by strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian revolution, Syria and the national progressive movements of Lebanon and Egypt and at the same time acting to effect the implementation of the decisions of the Baghdad and Tunis summits.

Replying, Abu Iyad reviewed recent developments in the Middle East. Stressing that the Palestinian revolution would continue its revolutionary struggle on a wider and more comprehensive plane and would resist all the plots because it was supported by all the peace-, progress-and freedom-loving powers and peoples of the world. He expressed appreciation for the solidarity and support of the Yemen Socialist Party and the PDRY Government with the Palestinian revolution. He said: Our struggle relations with the Yemeni people and the revolution in Democratic Yemen are growing ever stronger and more entrenched and we will continue to work to develop them further.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abbas Zaki, the PLO representative in Aden.

This afternoon the brother premier gave a luncheon for brother Abu Iyad and his delegation. It was attended by several members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee. Brother Iyad arrived in Aden this morning on a visit of several days to the PDRY.

Meets With Isma'il

LD182004 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, received at his office this afternoon brother Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Central Committee of the Palestine liberation movement, Fatah, with whom he discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly issues relating to the Palestinian revolution and the imperialist and reactionary plots it is facing.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il reiterated our country's firm and principled position and its support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to determine their own destiny and to establish an independent state on their national soil. The brother secretary general called for the continuation of the struggle to abort the Camp David accords which constitute a threat to the Arab peoples. In his meeting with Salah Khalaf, brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il hailed the militant relations between the YSP and the Palestinian liberation movement and the Palestinian revolution in general.

Brother Salah Khalaf praised Democratic Yemen's revolutionary position in support of the Palestinian people's cause in their just struggle.

He stressed the need for the cohesiveness of the Arab revolutionary forces against Zionist and reactionary plots aimed at undermining and striking at the Arab national liberation movements in the region and bringing imperialist influence to bear over our Arab peoples' resources.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Salih Muti, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and brother Salim Salih Muhammad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES YAR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER

LD182104 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, this afternoon received brother Husayn ad-Daf'i, adviser on unity affairs to brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic in the northern part of the homeland. During the meeting a number of issues of interest to the Yemeni people were discussed in an atmosphere of cordiality and fraternity. The draft proposal from the northern part of the homeland to schedule the meetings of the unity committees during the current year was also discussed.

The prime minister expressed his satisfaction at the work done so far by the unity committees and praised the results of the fraternal contacts and meetings between the officials of the two parts of the homeland. He added that the brothers who recently paid a visit to San'a' in the northern part of the homeland had returned with positive impressions of the meetings they held with brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers stressed that the two political leaderships in the two parts would continue their joint efforts to defend the objectives and principles of the Yemeni revolution and maintain Yemeni independence and sovereignty.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense; and 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Ghanim, secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council.

OPPOSITION LEADER DENOUNCES REGIME'S 'REPRESSIVE' ACTIONS

LD170951 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Unattributed, untitled report]

[Text] 'Abd ar-Rahman Mahbub, member of the nationalist grouping [at-tajammu' al-watani] command in Yemen, has condemned the terrorist and repressive measures to which the nationalist forces in South Yemen, including the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, are being subjected. In a lecture in Ar-Rabat hall on the anniversary of the establishment of the General Federation of Yemeni Students, he revealed the Aden regime's actions aimed at turning South Yemen into a military base for foreign forces threatening Yemeni sovereignty and independence and constituting an affront to patriotic and national dignity.

He said that the Yemeni Arab people's struggle of past years is now in danger because of the antinational attitudes of the Aden regime.

'Abd ar-Rahman Mahbub said that the building of Yemen, its progress and persistent struggle to strengthen its national sovereignty and the great sacrifices offered by the Yemeni masses culminated in the September and October revolutions. He stressed the importance of alliance among the nationalist forces, which regarded the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's call for the establishment of a Yemeni national front as a basic step for the alliance of all these forces within a national action program going beyond the previous programs.

Mahbub asserted that the restoration of Yemeni unity has been and still is the central objective which the Arab masses in Yemen are struggling to achieve on a popular, democratic basis.

Discussing the repercussions of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan on the situation in Yemen, he recalled the developments in South Yemen in June 1978, most important of which was the direct foreign military intervention in South Yemeni affairs during the armed clash between Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, which tipped the scales in Isma'il's favor.

He also said that foreign tutelage was the direct cause of the dishonorable stands which the Aden authorities are adopting toward several Arab issues, foremost of which is the Eritrean revolution.

'Abd ar-Rahman Mahbub called on the patriotic, national and progressive forces in Yemen to shoulder their responsibilities in the present conditions of patriotic and national struggle which the masses of our people in Yemen are waging, so that South Yemen will assume its role on the path of progress and struggle which the Arab nation is now waging for its cause in Palestine.

He also called for a halt to the campaigns of denunciation and a repudiation of terrorist methods to which organs of the ruling party in Aden are resorting against nationalist detainees in their prisons.

SAUDI ARABIA

ROYAL COURT ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY KING

LD181142 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--The royal court announced today that a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, on the orders of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his majesty's wish being that the committee be responsible for drawing up the organic statute of government, the consultative council and the regions in their final form in preparation for their approval and implementation.

The statement issued by the royal court says that it has been stressed to the eight-member committee that it is necessary to complete and finalize these statutes in the shortest possible time and to commence work immediately after the statement is made public.

These statutes will be submitted to his majesty at the conclusions of the committee's study.

The committee members will be the following: Ash-Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Al ash-Shaykh, justice minister; Ash-Shaykh Ibrahim al-'Anqari, labour and social affairs minister; Ash-Shaykh 'Abd al-Qahhab 'Abd al-Qasi, minister of pilgrimage and awqaf; Ash-Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; Dr Muhammad al-Mulham, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; Ash-Shaykh Muhammad ibn Jubayr, chairman of the Office of Complaints Against Injustices; Ash-Shaykh Salih al-Luhaydan, member of the grand ulema body and member of the Supreme Council of Justice; Ash-Shaykh Salih al-Husayn, minister of state and former member of the Council of Ministers.

MINISTER BLAMES WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR ENERGY CRISIS

LD171119 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, March 17 (KUNA)--The Saudi minister of information, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has charged the Western mass media with fabricating news on the energy situation in the world by claiming that the oil-producing countries were responsible for the rise of consumer goods and the spread of unemployment in the industrial countries.

He described these claims as 'lies' and said that a large quantity of money made by the oil companies and the oil brokers are spent to feed this propaganda campaign against the oil producers.

The minister held the Western countries responsible for the energy crisis and said the average barrel of oil is presently sold for 24 to 30 dollars while it is being sold at Rotterdam spot market for over 40 dollars under the very eyes of the Western mass media.

Lecturing at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University in Jiddah last night the Saudi minister said his government works for protecting the moral and material values of Islam upon which the Saudi society is based and that it bans entry of any informational material which contains the slightest violation of these values.

COMMENTATOR: ISLAMIC WORLD HAS NO INTEREST IN OUTSIDE ALLIANCES

LD171408 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

["Events and Comment" program presented by Hashim 'Abduh Hashim]

[Text] However hard the superpowers try to harm the unity of the Arab nation and the cohesion of Muslims in the various parts of the world, and whatever they do to alienate Muslims from their faith and weaken their resistance, they will not succeed, for the stands that stem from absolute faith in objectives cannot be shaken by outside forces.

The Arab nation has recently experienced a series of covert and overt confrontations with enemies and plotters. But this painful situation has only helped to consolidate their stands, strengthen their resolve and escalate their demands for their legitimate rights.

The international community does not lack elements which believe in freedom and rights and which defend principles and international laws and systems so that peace may prevail and reassurance reign over this world and so that under the canopy of this understanding of the true nature of the peoples' causes all the armies and plots of evil and wrong may founder.

The basic problem which the area is now experiencing stems from the fact that in the area there are still some who place their trust in forces which are hostile to this nation's faith and existence, rights and sovereignty. What has the USSR, for example, done to benefit the Arab and Islamic nation? What did the United States also offer it? Indeed, what has been achieved under the aegis of suspect alliances for the good of this nation?

These questions stem from an important rule: there is a big difference between having various forms of cooperation between the area and the superpowers and our being forced by these superpowers to relinquish large sections of our rights as a price for that cooperation. Naturally, there is a big difference. This is because the concept of mutual interests between the two sides must not mean exploitation, interference, containment or radical changing of the economic, cultural and social structures in our countries.

What has taken place in various parts of the Islamic world, the last of which is the current events in Afghanistan, provides sufficient proof to convince everyone that this nation has no interest in concluding alliances of whatever form with parties which differ with us in ideology, outlook and actions. Otherwise we in the region would be mortgaging our sovereignty and rights and placing them at the mercy of these forces and their actions which are always dictated by their own ambitions.

YAR

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER RETURNS FROM LIBYAN VISIT 17 MAR

JN171348 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, returned to San'a' this morning following a visit of several days to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Dr Hasan Makki said: The visit was a good opportunity for me to meet brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and to convey to him a personal message from brother leader Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, dealing with bilateral relations and urgent Arab and international issues. We also held talks with Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan foreign affairs secretary, on several current issues.

Dr Hasan Makki added: The results of the talks were good and we hope that this will soon reflect on Arab solidarity and bilateral relations.

OMANI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE

JN181053 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 18 March--Omani Foreign Ministry under secretary, Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah arrived in San'a' this morning on a visit of several days to the YAR. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY reports that during his visit, the Omani official will convey a message to YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from Sultan Qabus of Oman on the current Arab situation and on bilateral relations. The agency adds that the Omani under secretary will discuss ways of promoting bilateral relations with YAR Foreign Ministry officials.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISER LEAVES FOR PDRY 18 MAR

JN181019 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 18 March--Husayn ad-Daf'i, Consultative Council member and YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's adviser, left San'a' for Aden today. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY reports that Ad-Daf'i will convey an oral message from Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. The agency adds that Ad-Daf'i will hold talks with officials in the southern part of Yemen on the timetable of the unity committees between the two parts of Yemen.

ENVOYS LEAVE FOR ABU DHABI, KUWAIT WITH MESSAGES

JN172109 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] National Consultative Council member brother Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman ar-Ruba'i has left for Abu Dhabi with a written message from brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, brother Ar-Ruba'i stated that this visit comes within the framework of consultations with several fraternal Arab countries to exchange viewpoints on Arab and international issues. Ar-Ruba'i said that the message deals with issues of mutual interest to the two countries at this current stage.

National Consultative Council member Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab (al-Ghubari) has left for Kuwait with a similar message from brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

COMMENTS MADE ON GISCARD VISIT TO MIDEAST

Official Favors French Stand

NC191035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 March--An Egyptian responsible source has explained that Egypt looks at the French initiative for settling the Middle East crisis as a catalyst to the U.S. position to enable it to play its role of making the Israelis adopt a flexible stand. The French initiative, he said, casts light on the ultimate objective of self-determination for the Palestinians which should be fulfilled after the autonomy transitional period. He emphasized that Egypt intends to participate in any efforts aimed at underscoring the Palestinian rights.

In a special statement to writer Makram Muhammad Ahmad, published in AL-AHRAM today in an article by Ahmad who describes the source as a senior official, the source says that if the French are now refraining from presenting aspecific plan until after 26 May--the deadline for the conclusion of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations under the Camp David agreements--then Egypt will wait for the French plan.

The writer of the article says that those who portray the European initiative as an opposite stand to the Egyptian position in fact misread the two positions because the French position itse f is based on the two main principles of the Egyptian peace initiative, namely, withdrawal to the 1967 borders and recognition of the right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

Postion Supports Economic Interest

LD181223 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 15 Mar 80 p 8 LD

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "The Policy of Interests"]

[Excerpts] The primary purpose of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's tour of the Gulf was to pursue French economic interests. The businessmen were the ones who planned the tour and chose the Arab capitals the French president should visit and the Arab capital in which Giscard should make his statements to have the required effect.

Before Giscard embarked on his visit to a number of Gulf states, French economists studied the gains and losses the visit could entail. They finally agreed on the visit and on its importance to the French economy in this particular phase. The Gulf area is considered the most important part of the world these days. As far as the French economists are concerned, these is a strong competition among the major industrial states to get the lion's share in the area. The French economists are well aware that Japan beat them to the Gulf, that Japanese products are inundating the markets at dumping prices and that, besides Japan, Britain, the United States and the other industrial states--both Western and Eastern alike--are competing for a share of the large Gulf market.

So France was able in a short time to find a prominent place for itself in the Arab oil area andin a field where the other industrial states could not compete with it--the field of arms. The capitals of the arms-producing countries put restrictions on the sale of arms to the developing countries, but not France, which agrees to sell its arms products without restruction.

This cooperation has had a magic effect in rescuing the French trade balance. That is not all, because France has also gained a special and privileged position that has enabled it to secure its Arab oil needs on special terms and with sufficient guarantees, which have saved its economy from the shocks to which the other world states have been subject.

What has happened with regard to the arms industry has also happened to the other French industries. France has become the primary, if not the only competitor in most of the Arab oil markets. The French economists' ambitions for future cooperation in the Arab area are unlimited. This economic line has gained the support of the French Government. This support has been evident in all the attitudes France has taken in support of the Arab viewpoint, even though these attitudes contradict the real French viewpoint.

The best example of this is that the French Government has declared, through its president, that Israel must negotiate with the PLO in order to grant the Palestinians the right to self-determination. The Gulf states applauded this statement and marchers came out to greet President Giscard in the capitals of the states he visited. But this statement met with opposition in French circles, which attacked Giscard and accused him of misrepresentation and deception. The French newspapers have also attacked him, saying that Giscard knows better than anyone that he will gain nothing from his statements other than the applause of some of theArabs and more oil supplies at reduced prices.

Meanwhile, Giscard's supporters took up his defense, emphasizing that France's policy had not changed, that what Giscard said in Kuwait he had said before but in different words, that if Giscard advocates the right to self-determination for the Palestinians this does not deprive the Israelis of their right to self-determination, and that if Giscard has referred to the PLO this does not signify recognition of the PLO. A proof of this is that Paris has refused to receive the PLO leader so far.

Some people have described this as open French misrepresentation, while others have described it as a retreat that has become usual practice in international politics, particularly among the big powers.

MENA: GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ON 'SUBSTANCE' OF AUTONOMY ISSUE

NC181910 Cairo MENA in English 1840 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 18--(MENA)--Egypt has decided not to waste any more time discussing side issues in the Palestine autonomy negotiations, but to go only into the substance of the problem, theMiddle East News Agency has learned.

Ten months have passed and only two are left for the May 26 deadline, and Egypt is not ready at all to waste any more time on side and procedural affairs.

Egypt insists that the forthcoming negotiations should deal with the basic issues, namely, the legislative, executive and judiciary powers of the autonomy rule, and the transfer of the civilian administration in their entirety to the elected Palestinian authority.

The United States is in contact with Egypt and Israel to fix an early date for the meeting of the two sub-committees recommended by the Hague conference, namely, the legislative and economic sub-committees.

The two sub-committees are to refer their reports to the Plenary Committee at its meeting in Alexandria on March 25.

The three delegations to the plenary meeting will be headed by Egyptian Premier Mustafa Khalil, Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg, and U.S. presidential envoy Sol Linowitz.

In case Egypt presents a working paper in that plenary meeting, it will only reaffirm its position on Palestinian autonomy, as set forth earlier.

The recent Hague conference had committed the three parties to go into the fundamentals of the autonomy question.

NDP PARLIAMENTARY BODY MEETS 18 MAR

Mubarak, Khalil Speak

NC182025 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 March--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed the determination to set up the democratic structure on solid grounds in this period of the supremacy of the law. He said that the defense of democracy primarily demanded that we draw up rules and criteria to distinguish between right and wrong in order not to confuse matters and to keep from turning democracy into chaos, thus destroying the people's gains and shaking their security and stability.

Mubarak outlined that these rules were not meant to restrict or limit democracy but to deepen and consolidate it so that no group would be allowed to abuse or exploit it.

Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has affirmed that the provisions of the bill on the code of ethics are preventive measures to protect society and not penalties imposed on any individual. They are political measures aimed at protecting and consolidating democracy and are not meant to restrict the freedom of the individual.

Husni Mubarak and Mustafa Khalil were addressing the parliamentary body of the National Democratic Party at its 4-hour meeting today to discuss the bill on the code of ethics and a working paper presented by the president on the subject of Egypt and the new Arab reality.

As-Sadat Submits Paper

NC182030 Cairo Democratic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] President Anwar as-Sadat has stressed that Egypt's relations with the Arab world have special characteristics that derive from Egypt's distinguished historical, political and cultural status, which has paved the way for Egypt to undertake the major role in the liberation and independence of the Arab world.

This was contained in a working paper on the subject of Egypt and the new Arab reality, which President As-Sadat submitted to the NDP and distributed to its parliamentary body today.

The working paper pointed out that Egypt was the first Arab country to undertake a military confrontation against Israel and Zionism. Egypt has borne more than any other Arab country in making the utmost human, material and moral sacrifices. Since Egypt eventually took the initiative of making a new road to achieve peace between the Arabs and Israel, it is natural by virtue of history that Egypt should have this distinguished status because no other Arab country has the determination or ability to take the initiative or even the penetrating vision to imagine the future.

The paper further says that despite the differences with the rejectionist rulers in the Arab countries, it will remain quite true and invariable that the differences between the Egyptian initiative and the rejectionist rulers' proposals for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict are tactical and not strategic. Consequently, any attempts to tackle these differences must emanate from the aforementioned clear facts [as heard].

The working paper contains several questions, including one on the future relations with the Arabs, that will be submitted to the people to help the popular base and political leadership reach sound answers that will determine future policy. This policy will take into consideration both Egypt's achievements and what it aspires to achieve in keeping with the axioms that Egypt is the Arab nation's throbbing heart, vanguard, daring nature and will always remain so.

The paper says that the importance of Egypt's role at this stage is manifest in leading the Arab world toward a new, realistic understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict, bypassing the method of slogans and statements, particularly since Egypt is concerned about establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The peace treaty is a step on the road to a comprehensive peace. The working paper notes the new Arab situation, saying that Egypt will continue its struggle and insistance on having the autonomy talks in a position that will enable the Palestinian people to run their own affairs in preparation for self-determination. If the desired aim is not achieved in May of this year according to the treaty, Egyptian diplomacy will seek other alternatives that will basically retain that for which the Egyptians have been struggling for 30 years.

The paper points out that the Arab rejectionist rulers tried to move the differences from the Arab arena to the Islamic, African, nonalined and international arena. However, these attempts entrapped them in non-Arab claws, which only aim at weakening the entire Arab world in order to control and use it to serve purposes that have nothing to do with its real interests. This has reached the point where an Arab citizen raises his fists at his Arab brother and sheds his blood. The Arab rulers plotted to the point of allying themselves with foreign countries against the independence of the countries in the area at a time when international conflict is rife and a new cold war has destroyed the independence of states with whom we are linked with sacred ties, such as Afghanistan.

The paper points out that this situation brings us to the question of what stand Egypt must take toward the rejectionist Arab rulers. It also says that with its harmonious words and deeds Egypt finds that the idea of transforming the Arab League into one for Arab and Islamic peoples is a favorable response to the changes that have occurred in the Arab area and the surrounding region. Thus in this league the Arab and Islamic peoples will exercise what their rulers deprived them of.

This paper will be discussed at the NDP parliamentary body tomorrow morning.

AL-AHRAM: ISRAEL TORPEDOES MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEES

NC190730 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0657 GMT 19 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says that Israel has intentionally torpedoed the meeting of the two subcommittees which are supposed to consist of Egyptian, U.S. and Israeli experts in accordance with what was agreed upon at The Hague conference which was concluded on 29 February.

AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt still has not received Israel's reply approving or rejecting Egypt's proposal that the subcommittees meet in Israel yesterday. Egypt had already instructed its delegation to be ready to leave for Israel to attend this meeting.

AL-AHRAM adds that according to The Hague agreement, the two subcommittees should meet before 25 March, the date set for the plenary meeting of the heads of delegations, so that the two subcommittees would submit their reports to the plenary meeting to be attended by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg, and President Carter's representative Sol Linowitz.

AL-AHRAM says that some circles believe that Israel's failure to reply is due either to differences within the Israeli Government as to who should represent it in the two subcommittees, or to a desire to torpedo the meetings.

TALKS DEADLINE MAY BE EXTENDED IF PROGRESS MADE

LD181435 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 17 Mar 80 p 13 LD

[Mahmud Dhihni report: "Has the Jewish Magic in the Presidential Elections Come to an End?]

[Excerpt] U.S.-Israeli relations are passing through a critical crisis and have reached the point of confrontation over three sensitive subjects. These are: The Security Council resolution on the question of settlements, the new arms deal between Washington and Cairo and, finally, the autonomy negotiations.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has told me that the Security Council resolution on the question of settlements was a success for Egyptian diplomacy which sponsored the draft resolution and succeeded in getting it adopted by a unanimous vote, including the U.S. vote.

The importance of the resolution, as Dr Ghali stresses, is due to the following factors:

The fact that the resolution was unanimously adopted by the Security Council, on which three Western powers--the United States, Britain and France--have the power of veto means that the countries that voted for it are committed to implementing it.

The U.S. vote on the resolution on President Carter's direct instructions to the U.S. ambassador at a time when the U.S. presidential elections are at a critical stage gives two important indications: First, that President Carter, in the light of his clear lead over Senator Kennedy, feels more confident of reelection for a second term and, second, that the race for the Jewish vote, on which Senator Kennedy constantly relies, has become less significant following the peace initiative and the peace treaty.

The Security Council resolution came to the 26 May deadline for the autonomy talks, which means that the resolution on the question of settlements gives yet further international impetus to the autonomy negotiations.

The Security Council resolution has come together with a European and African diplomatic move for a European-African initiative in the Middle East.

With regard to the second sensitive point in U.S.-Israeli relations, namely the U.S. arms deal with Egypt for F-16 fighter planes and modern tanks, Dr Ghali said that this deal underlines several facts, including: U.S. confidence in Egypt's strategic and geopolitical position; U.S. respect for its pledges within the framework of bilateral relations and the Camp David agreements; The fact that the United States does not belittle Egypt's commitment to the policy of nonalinement and that, finally, the deal embodies Egypt's concept of the peace treaty and of relations with Israel--a concept backed by strength.

With regard to the third sensitive point in U.S.-Israeli relations, which is the autonomy negotiations, Dr Ghali explained that the date 26 May is provided for in the peace treaty and the agreements complementing it. According to the agreement provisions this is the final date for beginning the implementation of autonomy. Therefore, Cairo, as President Carter himself has declared, believes that to go beyond this date without reaching anything specific in the autonomy negotiations would cause it to call a halt to the negotiations and reevaluate their usefulness as well as considering other diplomatic channels.

Nevertheless, Dr Ghali asserts that tangible progress without reaching a final agreement before 26 May might make Cairo agree to go beyond the deadline to finalize the proposed ideas.

AMBASSADOR BEN-ELISAR 'ISOLATED' IN CAIRO

TA171139 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Mar 80 pp 1,7 TA

[By Sami Greenspan, Cairo]

[Text] Foreign correspondents in Cairo are inclining more and more toward the view that someone at the top in Egypt has decided to keep Israeli Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elisar in "isolation." There are even those who go further than this by saying that a sort of social boycott has been imposed upon him.

Correspondents point out that apart from the official meetings the ambassador holds with the heads of the Egyptian administration, as required by protocol, there are practically no Egyptians who maintain social contacts with him. Even for those official meetings, at least two Egyptian ministers have used bureaucratic procedures in setting the dates for their meetings with Ben-Elisar. Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil has not yet met with the Israeli ambassador.

To support their claim that the Egyptians are boycotting the ambassador, the foreign correspondents give the following examples:

--At a party given by the Cairo TIME Editorial Board in honor of Ben-Elisar, the Egyptian newspaper editors who had been invited did not appear.

--Not one of the senior editors of the Egyptian papers has yet met with the Israeli Ambassador who has been in Cairo since 24 February.

--When the mass-circulation weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM did ask to publish an interview with the ambassador last Saturday, and was given a positive reply, Ben-Elisar spoke with one of the weekly's journalists, but, in the end, the interview was not published.

In the foreign correspondents' "colony" in Cairo there were some people who dismissed the "boycott theory" and regarded the above examples as pure coincidence, with nothing deliberate behind them. However, along came the following example, which confuted them.

A foreign journalist representing one of the most respected papers, one acceptable to the Egyptian ruling circles, invited Ben-Elisar to a meeting at [his] home with Egyptians from various groups. Sixteen Egyptian personalities were invited to this meeting, including 2 senior editors, 2 senior members of the administration, (not ministers), writers, people from the arts and also one of the greatest doctors in Egypt. Some of these people maintain a link with Israel, and the professionals among them have even cooperated with their counterparts in Israel.

Lo and behold, not a single Egyptian accepted the invitation. Some of them gave the excuse that it was "still too early to maintain contacts with the representative of Israel." The embarrassed journalist was forced to cancel the meeting that was to have been held tomorrow.

In the opinion of the foreign correspondents, who are well-trained in the moods of Egyptian society, this wholesale, comprehensive boycott is deliberate.

It is clear that it is difficult to identify the Egyptians responsible for the ambassador's "isolation," an isolation in contradiction to the friendly reception President as-Sadat gave him when he received his credentials. It should be noted that the president meets with the senior editors of the Egyptian press almost every week.

Egyptian observers note the gap between the chilliness that members of the Egyptian elite are showing to Ben-Elisar and the warmth and friendliness with which he is received by the "man in the street." Wherever the ambassador goes--in the streets, restaurants and so on--he is immediately identified and given friendly applause, blessings, embraces and sometimes even kisses.

KHALIL MEETS WITH FRENCH TRADE MINISTER

NC171120 Cairo MENA in English 1100 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, March 17--Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. Mustafa Khalil received today French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Francois Deniau, who is currently visiting here.

MENA learned that the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mr. Hamid as-Sayih, dealt with a number of political and economic issues. Dr. Khalil also briefed the French minister on the Egyptian viewpoint on the Palestinian autonomy negotiations and the situation in the Middle East.

The meeting dealt also with various aspects of cooperation between Egypt and France.

The French minister arrived here on Thursday accompanied by a trade delegation on a week-long visit.

MENA: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY TO VISIT EGYPT

NC180732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 March--Quoting sources in the Austrian mission to the United Nations, AL-AHRAM reports today that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky will visit Egypt soon for talks with President Anwar as-Sadat on the latest developments in the Middle East.

The sources say that Kreisky is viewing with interest the developments in the autonomy negotiations and considers that the month of May will mark a turning point.

RCC RATIFIES NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAWS

JN161859 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 March--the RCC ratified today the National Assembly Law and the Legislative Council Law for the autonomous area of Kurdistan.

The first law provides for the election of an Iraqi National Assembly. The assembly, which will be elected every 4 years, shall consist of 250 members, with the representation ratio of 1 member for 50,000 citizens. The second law provides for the selection of a legislative council of Kurdistan and for the area which has been enjoying self-rule in northern Iraq since 1974. The council, which will be elected every 3 years, shall consist of 50 members, with the representation ratio of 1 member for each 30,000 citizens.

The members of the assembly and council shall be elected by free universal suffrage and secret ballot.

On 5 December 1979, the RCC presented the two bills for popular debate for 45 days. The Progressive National and Nationalist Front, the trade unions, organizations and societies took part in the debates. The nationwide debates have led to the amendment of some of the two bills' articles. The RCC has approved these amendments.

The National Assembly, alongside the RCC, shall perform the legislative duties. The assembly shall supervise the state's institutions, shall propose and enact laws in accordance with the constitution, shall ratify the state budget and the international treaties and agreements, shall debate the state's internal and foreign policy, shall summon any cabinet member for clarification or questioning and shall propose the relieving of any cabinet member of his post.

The National Assembly is founded on basic principles, including full equality among the citizens and between men and women, and on rejecting the false application of democracy. The National Assembly Law stipulates that the serious practice of democracy expresses the seriousness of the revolution's course, which is a pioneering experiment enabling the Arab nation to build a new life under the canopy of the principles of unity, freedom and socialism.

The 4-chapter National Assembly Law includes 64 articles. The law envisages the election of members, membership conditions and free universal suffrage.

The law stipulates that every Iraqi over the age of 18 shall be eligible to vote. The law also stipulates that a candidate must be an Iraqi by birth and have parents who are Iraqi by birth or a father who is an Iraqi by birth and a mother from an Arab country. A candidate should be over 25 years of age and should believe in the principles of the 17-30 July revolution. A candidate should not be married to a foreigner or be part of the expropriation of land in excess of the limit set in accordance with the agrarian reform laws.

The candidate should not be a former convict convicted of crimes harming public security, public confidence, the national economy, state financial credibility and state property or of crimes harming morals and public ethics.

A candidate should not be part of public fund confiscation or nationalization, except those shareholders in the limited companies. He should not be a former convict convicted of premeditated murder. He should read and write. The law stipulates that armed forces members can nominate themselves for the assembly's membership following the approval of their resignation.

The law stipulates that the assembly member will not be questioned concerning his expressed opinions or elaborations made while exercising his duty within the assembly session. The assembly members are immune from pursuit or arrest during regular assembly sessions unless the assembly permit is issued by the assembly chairman to this effect or the member is caught in the act of committing a crime.

The law stipulates that a candidate to the assembly can object to the refusal of his application by the commissions supervising the elections. He can appeal to the higher commission, whose decision to this effect will be final.

The National Assembly Law provides that voting shall be held in all parts of Iraq in 1 day, beginning at 0800 and ending at 2000. The country's governorates will be divided into electoral zones, each with a population of not less than 250,000, with the representation ratio of 1 representative per 50,000 people. Every electoral zone shall have a single candidacy list, which will include the number of assembly members who represent that zone.

Under the law, a five-member high elections supervisory commission shall be formed under the chairmanship of an RCC member and with the membership of the minister of local government, the minister of justice, a representative of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and a representative of the progressive national and nationalist front.

Committees will stem from this commission to supervise elections in the electoral zones. These committees shall consist of four members headed by a judge appointed by the minister of justice. In addition, there will be electoral committees to supervise elections.

The expenses for campaigning in elections shall be covered by the state.

The Iraqi National Assembly shall be called to convene by a republican decree during a period of time not exceeding 15 days from the date of announcing the electoral results. The assembly shall hold its first session under the oldest member. The assembly shall elect its speaker, deputy speaker and secretary in its first session and by means of secret balloting.

The assembly's 4-year term begins with the date of the first session and ends with the last session in the 4th year. The assembly shall have two sessions. The first session begins on the first Saturday of April and ends with the end of May; the second begins on the first Saturday of November and ends with the end of December. The president is empowered to extend the time of the assembly session. The assembly is also empowered to extend the time of its session upon a decision by the majority of its members. The president of the republic can also call the assembly into an extraordinary session whenever this is required.

The Legislative Council Law for the autonomous region of Kurdistan, northern Iraq, consists of 4 chapters which include 63 articles, defining the way the council is to be formed, membership conditions, guarantees for freedom of elections and the powers entrusted to the council. The council shall exercise the powers of making legislative decisions to develop the autonomous region, its culture, character and the citizens' traditions and to ratify the detailed plans for projects, propose the budget, question the members of the executive council of the autonomous region and voice confidence in the council.

The law provides the right to vote to every Iraqi man and woman residing in the Kurdistan region who is over the age of 18. The law also stipulates that a candidate should be Iraqi by birth of Iraqi parents, be over the age of 25, believe in the principles of the 17-30 July 1968 revolution, not be married to a foreigner and not be included in state confiscation of assets by nationalization, except those who are shareholders in incorporated companies. A candidate should also not be convicted of crimes harming internal or external state security, crimes harming the economy and financial credibility, crimes affecting state properties and crimes harming public morals, should not be convicted of a premeditated murder; and must know how to read and write.

The law considers the legislative council member a representative of the inhabitants of the autonomous region. It gives him immunity from being questioned regarding his opinion expressed while exercising his work in the council and immunity from pursuit or arrest for a crime without the permission of the council or its chairman, except when he is caught committing a crime.

Membership on the council ends with the end of the council's term, its dissolution, the member's resignation or the absence of requirements for his nomination to membership when this is decided by the majority of the council's members.

The governorates of the autonomous region shall be divided into electoral zones of no less than 150,000 inhabitants, each having 1 representative for every 30,000 people. Every electoral zone will have one election list, which will include the names of candidates larger in number than the number of members of the council allotted for that zone.

The legislative council is to hold its sessions in the Province of Irbil, the center of the autonomous region.

The other articles of the law are in agreement with those articles of the National Assembly Law.

TRADE MINISTER RETURNS FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SINGAPORE

JN190812 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 March--RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali returned here today following a tour of Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. He said that he and officials in the countries he visited discussed ways of developing trade relations and expanding technical, trade and agricultural cooperation. Hasan 'Ali added that negotiations were resumed with the New Zealand Government on an Iraqi plan to conclude a bilateral economic and technical agreement whose draft has been prepared and discussed. It is hoped that this agreement will be approved this year, he added.

PLO'S QADDUMI KING HUSAYN, DISCUSS JOINT ACTION ON PALESTINE

LD171605 London ASH-SHARQ AL-ASWAT in Arabic 17 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Untitled correspondent dispatch]

[Excerpts] Amman--Authoritative Jordanian sources affirmed to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Jordan has led to important results with respect to bilateral relations and the Arab cause.

The sources said that both sides have agreed to advance beyond the coordination stage which began last year and to launch joint action in the various fields, particularly in the international field and the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

It was learned that Qaddumi's talks with Husayn, Prime Minister Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan al-Qasim dealt with recent developments, particularly the French initiative and President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Jordan.

The Jordanian sources affirmed that agreement was reached on holding a meeting between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat in the near future in order to continue discussing the points on which agreement has been reached, to discuss the plan for joint action and to follow up the European initiative to solve the Middle East crisis.

Officials have said that King Husayn and Qaddumi also discussed steps to win further support for the Palestinian cause. Agreement was also reached on most effective measures that would enable Jordan and the PLO to provide aid to the inhabitants of occupied West Bank and Gaza to enable them to stand fast in the face of Israeli occupation.

Leaves for Damascus

JN171558 Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Ar-Ramtha, 17 March--A PLO delegation under PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi left Amman for Damascus this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit during which delegation members met with His Majesty King Husayn and held talks with Prime Minister Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and senior officials on coordination of action and cooperation to support the steadfastness of the citizens in the occupied territories.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent Qaddumi said that talks with the brother Jordanians were positive and fruitful. Qaddumi expressed happiness at meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and added that he explained to his majesty some issues of interest to the Palestinian people. Qaddumi added that his majesty welcomed the solution of these issues and problems. His majesty also explained Jordan's efforts in the service of the Palestinian cause.

Qaddumi said that talks with the prime minister dealt with several issues of interest to the two sides and to the people in the occupied territories.

Qaddumi added that he held talks with the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs on Jordanian and PLO action on the Arab and international level.

KING HUSAYN PRESIDES OVER MEETING ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

JN171859 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] At the royal Hashemite court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn presided over a meeting of the higher committee for the occupied territories affairs during which the situation in the occupied Arab territories was discussed.

A review was also concluded of the circumstances of the citizens in the occupied territories, granting them facilities which would help them to solve the problems they are facing and working for bolstering these citizens' steadfastness and firmness in their Arab territory.

The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the royal Hashemite court and several ministers and officials.

AUSTRIAN FINANCE MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT, LEAVES

JN141643 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Dr Hannes Androsch, Austrian vice chancellor and finance minister, left Amman this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister and several high-ranking Jordanian officials.

In a statement to newsmen at Amman airport, Dr Androsch expressed his pleasure at meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. He added: We exchanged views on current international issues and on the international situation, particularly in regard to the latest developments in the Middle East issue. He said: We also listened to Jordanian views on this subject.

Dr Androsch praised the strong ties binding Jordan and Austria, adding that these ties have developed and expanded during recent years. He added that the visits by His Majesty King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan to Austria and those by Austrian President Kirchschlaeger and Chancellor Bruno Kreisky to Jordan contributed to strengthening these relations. He added that the two countries' economic relations have recently developed, particularly in trade exchange, technical cooperation and in terms of Austria's participation in the implementation of several development projects in Jordan.

He added that the Jordanian and Austrian sides discussed future economic and technical relations and the possibility of Austria aiding in implementing Jordanian development programs and projects. He added that the two sides also discussed Jordan's technical and equipment needs. He said that subcommittees will be formed to follow up the implementation of these projects.

Dr Androsch praised the economic development and progress Jordan has achieved in recent years, particularly in the fields of irrigation and agriculture in the Jordan valley and in the expansion and construction projects in the port of Aqaba.

AR-RA'Y CALLS FOR CAMPAIGN TO WIN OVER U.S. PUBLIC OPINION

JN160910 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Mar 80 pp 1, 16 JN

[Editorial: "The Sacrifice of the Arab Cause in U.S. Elections"]

[Excerpts] With a strange logic that contradicts the requirements of justice, stability and peace, yesterday President Carter reviewed the foundations of U.S. policy in the Middle East, which can be summed up in adherence to the autonomy plan and in the notion that it is the only means of peace, in omission of Jerusalem's destiny and in avoidance of any call for dismantling the settlements, though the settlement policy can be criticized verbally, if necessary.

It is obvious that behind this U.S. insistence on disregarding facts lie considerations in the presidential elections, such as appeasing the Jewish voters in order to gain their votes. These considerations add to the U.S. administration's partiality toward the Israeli greed. Therefore, this represents an obstacle to the cherished peace.

In this light, the need for a wide-scale Arab campaign to win the U.S. public over becomes obvious. The public should be made to understand that the usual competition in criticizing the Arab cause will only lead to the downgrading of U.S. prestige. The real moral and material interest of the American nation requires a just and lasting peace in the area, not automatic partiality toward Israel.

The Arabs have suffered much from this cheap capitalization on their cause in U.S. election campaigns. It is time the United States realized that it is the final loser in this capitalization, even if the deal seems temporarily profitable in attracting votes from followers of Zionism and Israel.

AD-DUSTUR QUESTIONS U.S. STAND ON JERUSALEM

JN160911 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Mar 80 pp 1, 17 JN

[Editorial: "Has the United States Changed Its Stand on Jerusalem?"]

[Excerpts] During his press conference the day before yesterday, President Carter announced that he has "agreed with President as-Sadat and begin on a special provision on Jerusalem, within the context of the Camp David accords. This provision states that Jerusalem is indivisible and that the holy places are open to all religions."

We know that there is no mention of Jerusalem in the published texts of the Camp David accords. President Carter's statement in this respect is new and strange and has only one explanation; namely, that there are secret annexes to the accords. We have hinted previously at the existence of such secret annexes, but Egyptian , U.S. and Israeli departments determinedly denied them.

Has the United States changed its stand on Jerusalem and on the UN resolutions on the Middle East? As President Carter said, Jerusalem is indivisible, but under whose sovereignty? Does President Carter consider Jerusalem to be part of the Arab occupied territories, which means that it falls under Resolution No 242 and should be included under the principle of withdrawal?

We believe that the U.S. stand on Jerusalem as announced by President Carter is too grave to be received silently. The Arab countries should collectively address frank and open questions to the U.S. side regarding its stand on the future of Arab Jerusalem, so that President Carter's comments will not be a prelude to more critical stands and measures against the Arab cause.

INFORMATION MINISTER SAYS TIME SUITABLE FOR PEACE

JN181941 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Information Minister Dr Sa'id at-Tall said that the current circumstances may be the most suitable for achieving a genuine, just and lasting peace in the area. He added that the Middle East countries are now witnessing large and fundamental changes in various spheres. He said that time is on the side of the Arabs and that the Arab nations' circumstances in 20 years will differ from what they are now.

Addressing a delegation of the World Peace Academy, which is now visiting Jordan, he said that the Arabs' goal is genuine peace and that they are serious about reaching it. Yet if this Israeli arrogance, which is hostile to peace, continues, then peace in the area and perhaps in the entire world will be seriously jeopardized.

It will be recalled that the World Peace Academy was first established in New York in 1970. This academy has also set up an institute which runs courses for a number of civil and military officials of various countries with the aim of preserving peace and replacing violence with dialog and understanding in the world.

PAPERS ANALYZE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF SELF-RULE TALKS

JN190759 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The major topic commented upon and analyzed by today's Jordanian papers is the expected European initiative, following the failure of the self-rule negotiations among Egypt, Israel and the United States, the deadline for which has been set at 26 May. The papers point out that Israel has begun its information and psychological campaigns in Europe in order to nip the initiative in the bud. At the same time, the United States and Israel are pressuring Egypt to make further concessions, or rather to forfeit its remaining demands, as a price for the self-rule negotiations' success prior to 26 May, in order to forestall Europe's initiative.

The newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: Begin's government was not satisfied with launching campaigns against the recent change in the official European stand on Palestinian rights. Instead, it began a rapid move in Europe, on the level of popular leaderships and public opinion, in an effort to abort this stand with all available means. Israel's obvious intention is to frustrate the European initiative before it crystallizes into a complete peace plan, so that it can continue to hold the threads of the situation in the area in its favor through continuation of the sterile negotiations based on the Camp David accords.

AD-DUSTUR adds: The Arab states should move quickly, effectively and intelligently to conduct a multifaceted dialog with parliamentary leaders and the information media in Europe, to convince them of the justice of the Arab stand, by inviting parliamentarians and public opinion leaders to visit the Arab countries, sending lectures to Western capitals, holding seminars and conferences there in which to explain all dimensions of the Palestinian issue and by clarifying the nature of the interests that link Europe with the Arab peoples, which will inevitably be affected by blind support for Israel's stand.

Commenting on the same topic, the newspaper AR-RA'Y speaks about the Camp David partners' attempts to extend the deadline of the self-rule talks as an outlet by which to keep these talks under their control and to prevent the European states from entering this arena through initiative. Some of the signs mentioned by AR-RA'Y demonstrating that attempts are being made to extend the deadline are:

1. Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir's affirmations that the talks will succeed if the deadline is extended beyond the established date.

2. President Carter's telephone contacts yesterday with President as-Sadat on self-rule. It is not unlikely that these contacts aimed at an agreement to extend the aforementioned deadline or to refer the subject to a future Camp David summit.

3. President as-Sadat's speech yesterday in which he tried to belittle the importance of the French stand, intimating that the foundations of this stand cannot be implemented except through the Camp David accords.

Undoubtedly, the game being prepared by the Camp David partners is so obvious that it cannot deceive anyone. Therefore, the European states are called upon not to postpone their initiative, even if Egypt, Israel and the United States extend the date of the self-rule talks. Otherwise, the initiative will seem as if it is dependent upon the will of the Camp David partners. This will weaken the trust in it and surround it with many shadows.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES SECURITY SITUATION

NC181423 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus at 1300 today. The meeting lasted until 1400. After the meeting, Minister Butrus spoke about the military escalation in the south and the diplomatic activity taking place in Beirut in the past 2 days. He said: The military escalation in the south is, regrettably, not surprising. Israel is still concentrating and mobilizing forces in the south, with or without reason, in order to escalate the security situation and create problems for Lebanon. This is known. The situation is not as stable as it should be. There is room for taking some action on somebody's part as a pretext for military escalation in the south.

Minister Butrus added: Diplomatic activity in the past 2 days was concentrated mostly on the Security Council resolutions as well as the efforts being exerted on all levels to insure their implementation to enable Lebanon to rid itself of the remainder of Israeli occupation and regain its authority and sovereignty over the territory in the south.

As some informed visitors have stated there is more than one difficulty obstructing the full and sound implementation of the resolutions. But we must all exert our utmost efforts to prepare the necessary ground for the implementation of these resolutions and for the state's regaining of its authority, sovereignty and territory as far as the international borders.

The visits, which took place in the past 2 days, are indicative of the interest of both the international community and the UN Security Council member states in what is happening in the south. This is because they rightly believe that today southern Lebanon is one of the areas that could endanger the situation in the region. On the one hand, this is extremely regrettable but on the other, it encourages us to believe that good intentions and efforts will inevitably produce a result in the end.

Asked whether there is a connection between the Israeli military escalation and the visits of Urquhart and Jacques Leprette [the French permanent UN representative] to Lebanon, Foreign Minister Butrus said: This raises the question of predicting intentions and opens the door to speculation. A connection may possibly exist between the escalation and the visits. It is also possible that there is no connection between the escalation and the visits.

AL-HUSS MEETS WITH PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DELEGATION

NC181825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met in his house in Ad-Dawhah this evening with a PLO Executive Committee delegation consisting of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman; Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad; and Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in general, with particular emphasis on southern Lebanon and ways of insuring calm there in.

VOL REPORTS DISTURBANCES IN DAMASCUS, ALEPPO, NORTH

NC181331 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Mar 80 NC

[Text] The disturbed situation in Damascus and the northern Syrian towns continues to be a source of anxiety, particularly in the capital and [word indistinct]. Traffic has stopped in the old presidential palace area in the wake of three explosions last night in the embassies street near Ar-Rawdah Palace. Traffic was also stopped in the area of the Foreign Ministry.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that in Aleppo there have been strong explosions during the night. In that town almost all the stores in the areas of Al-Ansari and Sayf ad-Dawlah and in An-Nil street have been blown up. It has transpired that the long alleys in the Muslim Brotherhood quarter in Al-Kallasah are filled with weapons, which are concealed in tunnels extending over some 4 kms underground. The Syrian army is finding it very difficult to storm [these areas] because each tunnel has several entrances and exits.

The radio correspondent further reports that the township of Homs is closed and that from time to time, the citizens stage various demonstrations in the township under the slogan of demanding foodstuffs. Some placards, on which is written "beware of explosives", have been noted on some roads leading to Aleppo.

STUDENT FEDERATION ISSUES STATEMENT SUPPORTING AL-ASAD

JN182115 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--The National Student Federation in Syria issued a statement today at the end of the special conference it held to discuss and adopt the necessary measures to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught against Syria's steadfastness and national unity.

The statement says: Revolutionary Syria is resolutely waging a battle against all plans and plots. It said "no" to the Camp David alliance, "no" to surrender and "no" to humiliation and submission. Thus, we see plots intensifying against this steadfast country to make it surrender and become a tool for implementing the new U.S. imperialist game.

The enemy knows that the submission of Syria means the submission and surrender of the Arab nation. Thus, the enemy intensified its plots against our people and tried every conspiracy. It searched in the dark corners of history and found in the remnants of reaction and the gangs of murder and crime--the Muslim Brotherhood gangs--the pliable tool that will carry out the instructions of the Americans and the Israelis.

These remnants began their activities thinking that they could crush the revolution and its toiling masses. However, our steadfast people, represented by the alliance of progressive nationalist forces, was ready for these remnants. Our people have decided to crush these subversive reactionary gangs and have affirmed their resolve to loftily pursue their course to build the socialist society, strengthen democracy and entrench the social changes.

The special conference of the National Student Federation in Syria was attended by thousands of fellow strugglers in the federation. They renewed their allegiance to comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the inspired leader of our people and nation. The conference discussed the tasks set for the masses of our students in the current situation and adopted the following resolutions:

1. To consider the speech made by comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at the opening of the conference as our federation's full program of work in the next phase. Immediate action shall be taken to draw up executive plans for the tasks and guidelines contained in that speech.

2. To form armed groups from among the strugglers of the National Student Federation in Syria in all universities and institutes to strengthen and firmly entrench the revolution and to face its enemies at home and abroad.

3. To instruct the masses of our students to devote their knowedge and education to serving the interests of our people and their crucial issues. Leading cadres in our federation shall organize campaigns to enlighten the public about the dimensions and objectives of the battle and to protect our masses against all forms of exploitation, deception and lies practiced by the hostile forces.

4. To reorganize the federation in all fields so as to build a new solid organization which will cope with the demands of the current phase and strengthen the socialist revolution. We should also stress the big role played by the federation's branches abroad in our national struggle in facing the reactionary onslaught.

5. To strengthen the exercise of popular democracy and to stress the federation's role in supervising the exercise of democracy and protecting the achievements, gains and interests of the toiling masses.

BA'TH PARTY, PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS SIGN AGREEMENT

JN171417 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1210 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus, 17 March--A party cooperation agreement for 1980-1981 was signed today at the Ba'th Party National Command headquarters between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Portuguese Communist Party.

The agreement was signed on the Ba'th Party side by Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, member of the Regional Command, and on the Portuguese Communist Party side by Comrade (Albano Nunez), Central Committee member. Present at the signing were Comrades Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member and foreign relations office chairman, Alvaro Cunhal, Portuguese Communist Party secretary general, and other comrades from the delegation.

After signing the agreement amicable speeches were exchanged. Comrade Qaddah expressed his hope for continued developed cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the Portuguese Communist Party as well as between the peoples of Syria and Portugal. Comrade (Nunez) expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the cooperation during the delegation's visit to Syria.

The delegation left later for Beirut. They were seen off near the shooting club by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah and the chairman and members of the foreign relations office.

Prior to his departure, Portuguese Communist Party Secretary General Comrade Alvaro Cunhal expressed his thanks for the hospitality accorded him and the delegation while in Syria and for the useful exchange of viewpoints, the acquaintance with Syria's achievements, particularly the meeting with Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the republic, and the useful talks he conducted during his stay. He expressed his hope that Syria, under the leadership of the Ba'th Party, will achieve more success and progress in building socialism and resisting imperialism, Zionism and their allies. He asserted that the Portuguese Communist Party and the Portuguese masses stand by revolutionary Syria, its leader party and its struggling masses.

The joint statement following the visit of the Portuguese Communist Party to Syria will be issued tomorrow.

Statement Issued

JN181701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--A joint statement was issued today on the talks held in Damascus between a delegation of the Portuguese Communist Party and a Ba'th Party delegation.

After reviewing the two parties' positions on the domestic and foreign policies of their respective countries, the statement condemns the Camp David accords and the separate peace treaty between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist entity and all steps resulting from the accords and the treaty, such as the autonomy conspiracy and the normalization of relations.

The two parties affirm that just and lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights, including their right to establish their independent state on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO.

On the international level, the two sides expressed their complete conviction that the strengthening of the world anti-imperialist front and the bolstering of the peoples' common struggle should weaken imperialism and foil its plans. They expressed their appreciation of the socialist bloc countries, especially the USSR, for supporting peoples fighting for freedom and resisting imperialism and reaction.

The two sides referred to the need to intensify the struggle against the arms race led by the United States and the hostile reactionary circles and to defend international detente and peace in Europe and the world.

The two sides condemned the imperialist-Zionist plotting against the Iranian Revolution and the exploitation of the Afghan incidents to crush the progressive regime in Afghanistan. They also condemned the massing of more U.S. forces in the Gulf area.

The statement affirms the two parties' support for the legitimate struggle waged by world liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The statement concludes by expressing the two parties' satisfaction with the development of the ties of friendship and cooperation between them in the interest of the Syrian and Portuguese peoples.

ALGERIA

TALKS WITH GAMBIA OPEN IN ALGIERS 17 MAR

LD171856 Algiers APS in English 1645 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 17/03/80 (APS)--Political talks between Algeria and Gambia started today at the presidency. The two delegations are led by Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Dawda K. Jawara.

The Algerian side was represented by Mr Mohamed Yala, minister of finance; Mr Mohiedine Aor, counsellor to the presidency; Mr Mohamed Dembri, secretary general of the (?foreign) ministry; Mr Abada Abdelwahab, head of the department of [word indistinct] at the foreign ministry and Mr Adjali, Algerian ambassaor to Gambia.

The Gambian side was represented by Mr Alhadji Lamin Jabang, foreign minister; Mr Saihou Sabally, minister of planning; Alhadji Musa Dabo, Gambian ambassador to Algiers and several other senior officials. Earlier in the morning today, the Gambian delegation led by President Jawara went to El Alia cemetery and laid a wreath at late President Boumediene's tomb.

LIBYA

ARMY CHIEF RECEIVES BENIN MILITARY DELEGATION

LD151912 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The general commander of the Libyan armed forces Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir today conferred with the chief of staff of the armed forces of Benin and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. The meeting was also attended by the Libyan Arab ambassador in Benin.

MOROCCO

BOUABID ON DISPUTE WITH ALGERIA, INTERNAL 'CONSOLIDATION'

LD190851 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 11 Mar 80 pp 1, 8 LD

[Apparent text of Fatima Belarbi interview with Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid originally published in "latest edition" of Rabat L'OPINION: "The Plan To Come Will Be A Plan for Growth"]

[Excerpts] Question: What is the position with respect to the various efforts aimed at mediation and will any negotiations with Algeria eventually take place?

Answer: Whenever a dispute occurs between two countries, especially when two fraternal and neighboring countries like Morocco and Algeria are involved, and when tension is as serious as that prevailing in our region develops, offers of mediation and good offices are--very fortunately--not long in coming.

Consolidation of the Domestic Front in the Face of Aggression and Plots

This has occurred with respect to the dispute between ourselves and Algeria. Unfortunately, however, even though our country has never refused to engage in dialog and discussions with our neighbors, the latter have so far rejected even the wisest and most disinterested offers, insisting on aberrant and unacceptable prerequisites.

This attitude has finally discouraged people with the best possible intentions and, as a result, we feel that we have now reached a real deadlock. Obviously, we are sorry that such a situation has arisen, but we are not beggars....

Question: Consolidation of the internal front is another objective of the government's policy. Prime Minister, what measures have been adopted to achieve this objective?

Answer: What has been called consolidation of the internal front is an entire set of balances to be established in several distinct spheres to insure that while being strengthened in the domestic sphere our country is also able to deal with external perils. These balances are of a political, economic and social nature. This means that they relate to national activities as a whole. In the political sphere the internal front remains united and solid behind his majesty the king in the face of our first priority; namely, preservation of our territorial integrity and thwarting any aggression and plots to which our country has been subjected by enemies of a strong, united, free and prosperous Morocco.

National unity is not inconsistent with the existence of a structured and active opposition ready to make clear its objections whenever it disagrees with the government's orientations and decisions but remaining a partner in the national union as far as what counts most--our achievements and our national identity--is concerned.

As for consolidation of the internal front in the economic sphere, as a result of the war effort which has been imposed on us and of the current difficulties from which all Third World countries lacking energy resources have suffered especially badly, our country has undoubtedly been faced, like many others, with economic problems. However, the difficulties with which it has been confronted have not been as dramatic and worrying as those confronting some other countries in a similar position.

In fact, we have been able to avoid some dangers exactly because we have been conscious of the importance of what was at stake and because we have not lost sight of the fact that an economically weakened Morocco would become a possible victim of its enemies and adversaries whose desire for hegemony and morbid quest for power are supported by almost inexhaustible financial resources. This is why we have assigned a dual objective to our 5-year plan--restoration of balances and implementation of a policy of strict austerity--and this is why I feel sure that our coming development plan, which is already being prepared, will greatly benefit from that pause for reflection which our 1978-1980 3-year plan has been.

And, finally, the third--and not the least important--factor in this internal consolidation relates to the social climate, that is, the need to insure harmonious coexistence, active solidarity and mutual support among the various social partners. It is to achieve this both ambitious and exciting objective that we have adopted a policy of social dialog which has initiated an entire dynamic of cooperation which started with the dialog with the trade unions. This dialog has developed in depth as a result of the "economic days" and will be crowned in a few days' time by a meeting of the economic and social council, a permanent high-level institution which will strengthen the democratic edifice which our country possesses.

All this means that many measures have been adopted to achieve consolidation of our internal front; and it is with this objective always in sight that we are now buckling down to the task of preparing our next economic and social development plan, which will be a redeployment plan following in the footsteps of a period for reflection and pause which has lasted 3 years.

Question: What means have been adopted to insure economic revival?

Answer: As you know, in October 1979, on the occasion of the opening of "national economic days," I announced that his majesty's government is determined to revive the economy during the current year by stimulating investments and production. I also stated that the building, public works and industrial sectors in particular will provide astimulus for such a revival. And, as you have been able to see, some measures have already been adopted with this end in mind. I am referring, among other things, to the government's decision to make available more funds for state investments with a view to implementing new projects in the public works and industrial construction spheres, including new plans for housing projects, restructuring of shantytowns, construction of ports and the launching of the plan for the iron and steel works at Nador.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI: GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT 'UNIFIED ARAB STRATEGY'

JN191008 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 19 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has stated that Sudan is now working to formulate a unified Arab strategy to pool Arab efforts in the political, military and economic spheres in order to gain the legitimate Arab rights and score victory for the Palestinian Arab people.

In an interview with the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today, President Numayri said that Sudan will submit its concept of such a strategy at the next Arab summit so it can be developed and fraternal Arab countries become committed to it.

President Numayri added that he differs with those who view the Arab situation with pessimism, particularly in the wake of the Camp David agreements. President Numayri said: We still have Arab unanimity which became apparent at the Baghdad and Tunis summit conferences. There is the change in the West European countries' positions and the new international approach to the Palestinian cause. What is more important than all this is the Arab steadfastness against attempts to fragment the cause and deal unilaterally with it. We still have solidarity, coordination and mobilization of potentials to liberate Jerusalem and establish a Palestinian state.

President Numayri added that Sudan was among the first to condemn and denounce the Egyptian-Israeli normalization of relations. We are also opposed to granting so-called "facilities" in Egypt and the establishment of foreign military bases in Somalia, Aden and Oman. We believe the Middle East must remain a neutral area, particularly the Red Sea and its entrances, because keeping the area out of international struggles will be a security guarantee, not only for the peoples in the area, but also for the entire world.

President Numayri said: Balance and security in the Gulf area can be achieved through Gulf countries' relations with West European countries in view of the cultural and geographic ties that exist between them. I stressed this point during my talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayan in light of the French president's visit to the area.

President Numayri explained that his country and Iraq are currently taking positive steps to end the dispute between them. A Sudanese envoy will leave for Iraq soon with a message for President Saddam Husayn. President Numayri also mentioned that Sudan and the UAE are currently working to achieve food self-sufficiency for the Arab nation.

PRC LABOR DELEGATION ARRIVES IN KHARTOUM

JN181804 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 18 (SUNA)--A Chinese labour delegation headed by secretary of Chinese Trade Union, Mr Gi Ping arrived here today on a seven-day visit to Sudan. This visit embodies the strong relations that tie the two unions in China and Sudan; and it was also meant to strengthen friendship relations between Chinese people and Sudanese people" [quotation marks as received] said Mr Gi Ping to Sudan News Agency (SUNA).

TUNISIA

PRC VICE PREMIER ARRIVES IN TUNIS

LD181652 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] Vice Premier of the PRC State Council Mrs Chen Muhua, arrived this afternoon in Tunis on an official visit which will last until 26 March. She is leading an important delegation which includes He (Ying), vice minister for foreign affairs, and Cheng Fei, vice minister of the ministry of economic relations with foreign countries.

Mrs Chen Muhua made a statement in which she said: I am very happy to pay a friendship visit to the Tunisian Republic [words indistinct]. I would like on this occasion to convey to His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, the Tunisian Government and the (?struggling and heroic) people, the appreciation and greetings of the Chinese leaders, government and people, and to express my best wishes to the Tunisian Republic for prosperity and to the Tunisian people for happiness. The PRC and Tunisia are two developing countries and belong to the Third World. The common destiny which we have known in the past and the identical [word indistinct] which we are facing today [words indistinct] we are pleased to see the relations of cooperation between Tunisia and the PRC are (?continuously) being consolidated. I am convinced that the friendship and cooperation between our two countries, due to our joint efforts, will be strengthened further [words indistinct].

Meets Education Minister

LD182114 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Mohamed Mzali, minister of education, who is also responsible for coordination of government affairs, had talks this evening at Government House with Mrs Chen Muhua, vice premier of the PRC State Council, who arrived in Tunis this afternoon on an official visit.

DETAILS OF WEIZMAN'S SECRET MISSTION TO S. AFRICA REPORTED

TA191131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman was in South Africa last week on a secret political mission on the prime minister's behalf. He conferred with South African leaders. His trip, his discussions [there] lasted 3 days, and our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has the details.

[Begin Schiffer recording] As mentioned, the defense minister stayed for 3 days in South Africa last week. That was a political mission, a routing mission for the handling of common Israeli-South African issues. This is how the objectives of Minister Weizman's secret trip to Pretoria are described. Foreign press occasionally carries reports on the essence of Israeli-South African relations. These reports indicate that the two countries maintain tight cooperation in the fields of economy, commerce and nuclear research. It seems that Minister Weizman went there to continue tightening the cooperation and perhaps also to sign agreements on the sale of Israeli arms to South Africa.

Only the prime minister and several senior ministers such as Simha Ehrlich, Yiga'el Yadin and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, knew about Minister Weizman's trip. Israel is making efforts not to highlight the tight relations with South Africa. In the past as well, ministers including the defense minister traveled to South Africa but this was not always publicized. This time too, Defense Minister Weizman's trip was kept secret and even senior officials of the defense system did not know where Weizman had disappeared to. The head of his office, Major Arye Shor, used various excuses last week to turn down requests for meetings with the defense minister. The secret was kept until this morning.

Last night the defense minister reported to the prime minister about his talks in South South Africa. The leaker will not be looked for prabably but there is another question in principle here. The question of the relations with South Africa may be raised for public discussion now--will the mainly covert relations continue or will the policy change and future relations be open, overt and given to public criticism? [end recording]

NO CONFIDENCE MOTION NARROWLY DEFEATED IN KNESSET

TA181609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Knesset rejected a no confidence motion submitted by the revival party. Fifty-five Knesset members expressed confidence in the government. Forty-six opposition members voted against the government. Knesset Member Dayan was present but he did not take part in the vote.

The no confidence motion was submitted by Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen, who said that there was no Cabinet. There is only a group of ministers who are devouring each other. The nation and the state are not important. Minister Moshe Nisim, who answered on behalf of the Cabinet, said the revival movement represented an insignificant minority in the Knesset and the nation. Afterward, the representatives of the various Knesset factions made their statements, and finally the vote was taken.

LIKUD WHIP CONSIDERS HADASSAH VOTE DELIBERATE PROTEST

TA182022 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Mar 80 TA

[MK Pesah Grupper interviewed by Hayim Yavin in the studio--live]

[Excerpt] The coalition was today defeated in the voting held in the Knesset on the settlement of Jews in Hebron. MK Yosi Sarid's proposal for the agenda received a surprise majority of 36 votes agreeing to its transfer to a committee, as against 35 coalition votes. Our correspondent says that it is not yet clear whether the absence of coalition members of Knesset was coincidental or whether some of them were deliberately absent from the hall and so gave indirect support to Sarid's proposal. MK Sarid spoke about the danger to be expected from next week's Cabinet decision about settling Jews in Hebron, and most of the Knesset foreign affairs and security committee coalition members spoke against settling Jews in Hebron. Only MK's Binyamin Halevi and Hayim Druckman supported populating Hebron with Jews. Members of the foreign affairs and security committee from the coalition, Amnon Lin, Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, Pesah Grupper, Zalman Shoval and Ya'Aqov Gross spoke against the Jewish colony in Hebron. The prime minister attended the meeting and said that he would not express his opinion before the cabinet session which will discuss the matter. We have invited MK Pesah Grupper, from the Likud faction, to the studio. Good evening, sir.

[Grupper] Good evening.

[Yavin] MK Grupper, are you still the faction's whip?

[Grupper] I am still the whip.

[Yavin] How do you explain the defeat you suffered in the Knesset on the matter of Hebron?

[Grupper] In general, on the issue of voting, you simply have to see to it that colleagues will be there, but today I do not feel comfortable. I know that several members of Knesset who do not agree to settlement in Hebron voted with their feet. That makes me very sad. It makes me very sad.

[Yavin] That is, they were absent from....

[Grupper] That is our slang. Someone who suddenly disappears from the Knesset we call voting with his feet.

[Yavin] Would you say that there is a majority in the Likud faction against settling Jews in Hebron?

[Grupper] I do not know whether there is a majority, but, as far as I know the topic, there are many. I have not made the exact calculation but there are many who are against settlement in Hebron today.

[Yavin] That is, you, as the faction's whip, as the man whose job is, in fact, to bring the members to the plenum, say with confidence that this was a sort of protest vote against the renewal of (garbled) I personally know several members of Knesset to whom, at the last moment, I appealed and they left.

BEGIN: PLO STATE WOULD BE SOVIET BASE

LD181257 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Mar 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Francis Cornu interview with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Jerusalem: "Europe Should Understand That a State Governed by the PLO Would Become a Soviet Base"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] [Question] After the U.S. vote against the settlements at the United Nations, and after President Giscard d'Estaing's statements and the positions adopted by the European countries, is Israel not more isolated than ever?

[Answer] No, I do not think so. We have proof of that with President Carter's statement that the Security Council resolution contradicts the Camp David agreements. This is a very important point and could also be applied to the position adopted by the French president in Kuwait on the subject of self-determination. At a time when everybody--like President Giscard d'Estaing--is talking about this principle in relation to the Palestinians, I really must point out that I am a Palestinian. There are Jewish Palestinians and Arab Palestinians. The preamble to the mandate given to the British Government in 1922 contains the "recognition of the historical ties between the Jewish people and Palestine." At that time the world admitted that "Palestine" was simply a foreign name to describe the place with which the Jewish people had historical ties. Therefore the Jewish people's rights to return and rebuild a homeland, in other words a state, were recognized by all nations. However, the French president was probably referring to the Arab Palestinians. In that case it is clear that self-determination simply means the creation of an Arab Palestinian state.

"Meaningless Words"

[Question] But what precisely do you think of the French and European positions as they have just been expressed?

[Answer] The whole Arab people, of which the Arab Palestinians only represent a very small part, at present comprise 21 sovereign states whose right to self-determination has never been denied by us. This principle applies to nations, not to small parts of them. It is legitimate to want to create a 22d Arab state called Palestine which would threaten the very existence of the Jewish state although there is only one Jewish state? All that has been said to us about "guarantees," "security" and so forth is merely meaningless words. Experience has shown us what such guarantees mean. They are never effective. We are not asking anybody to defend us or guarantee our security. We can safeguard our own independence. We are not asking anybody to fight our battles.

Just look at a map of our region and see where a Palestinian state would lie: on the hills which overlook the Mediterranean coastal plain where the large majority of the Israeli population is to be found. A state in that position could hold all our main cities hostage simply with machineguns, not to mention artillery. Furthermore nobody has any doubt that it would be a state headed by the PLO. On this point it is significant to note the content of the various statements made recently. They all stress that what is called the PLO should be a full partner in negotiations. President Giscard d'Estaing already recognizes the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinians. People should realize that this organization enjoys complete support from the Soviet Union, especially in arms supplies. In Lebanon it already has tanks and many of its members are training in the Soviet Union. The PLO also receives financial aid from the oil-producing countries. In these circumstances an independent state would be a mortal danger to us.

[Question] Is the Israeli Government expecting a European initiative, especially if the autonomy negotiations, which are due to end 26 May, fail?

[Answer] An initiative to what end? I do not really know what it could do. According to the statements made by members of different parliaments, there are differences of opinion in Europe on this question. All I can do is make an appeal by saying that from a moral viewpoint France and the European countries should be very careful when talking about the Jewish state's security. Those same countries saw what happened to the Jewish people during the thirties and forties--nobody came to our help. These countries should show a little more caution over any approach which could threaten the very existence of the Jewish state where the survivors of the holocaust are living. In saying that I speak more in sadness than in anger. I would also like to stress that there are political attitudes which could have negative and painful results for those who adopt them. I say that on the basis of my experiences in the Thirties. The word self-determination was used for the Sudeten Germans. Already in several Western countries that thought this argument was sound [Apparent line drop in newspaper] "Why should Germans live in Czechoslovakia?" We know where that eventually led. Everybody paid the price of that mistake and our people paid the most awful price of all. We must learn from the past. The Western and European countries in particular should understand that a state governed by the PLO would inevitably become a Soviet base in the heart of the Middle East. The PLO regarded the invasion of Afghanistan as aid given to a friendly country. That is a warning. It only takes 2.5 hours to fly from Odessa to our region. What a threat to West Europe and the United States!

I can only refer to President Carter's statements. At Camp David we did not use the term self-determination but autonomy; there is no question of sovereignty or a state. Why will Europe not give the present process a chance?

[Question] Precisely what would happen if the current preliminary negotiations were not completed by the date set?

[Answer] Everybody is wondering what will happen after 26 May. However, we must first hope that we will reach an agreement--provided, of course, that each side respects its promises in the same way as we have respected the peace treaty clauses so far. However, let us suppose that there are no results by 26 May. Would that bring about the collapse of the whole process? At Camp David we decided that we would succeed in concluding the peace treaty within 3 months. We did not succeed, but we pursued our efforts for 3 more months and we finally succeeded. Similarly we should now continue the negotiations. Why not give us a chance to succeed, even if we are encountering problems? The French president's statements are very harmful and contradict the Camp David agreements. In a sense I must say that our survival depends on this.

[Question] There could be a new European initiative in connection with the terms of Security Council Resolution 242. Are you opposed to any modification of that text?

[Answer] Modification? I am afraid it is more a question of a change. Resolution 242 is the basis of the Camp David agreements. If you change the bases you call the agreements themselves into question. It is impossible to go back on what has been signed. That is only logical. Moreover the United States has always opposed a change and it seems that that is still true today. Will it be true in the future? I cannot say.

"Unreal Comparisons"

[Question] In Israel, members of the opposition believe that negotiations could be undertaken with the PLO if the latter renounced terrorism and accepted Resolution 242, thereby recognizing Israel. By deeming such a formula unacceptable are you not prejudicing the future while preventing a development of the Palestinian attitude?

[Answer] We do not want this recognition. We do not need it. If we have a right to exist this is solely because we do exist. We have paid a very high price for this right, and that does not devalue it, quite the reverse. The suggestion to which you refer is not new but still remains theoretical. Before each PLO meeting there are rumors of a possible modification of their charter which envisages the disappearance of the Israeli state. But each time this suggestion proves false. A few days ago a PLO leader explained once more that not a word of this charter would be changed. Another spokesman was asked whether the PLO was ready to abandon "the armed struggle," with its implication of the murder of men, women and children along the lines of genocide. A long way from here there are people who, from a philosophical viewpoint or because of certain calculations, are making statements without thinking of the consequences that might arise at our expense.

[Question] What would Israel's attitude be if, as Egyptian leaders are hinting, the Cairo government was prepared next May to plan a new formula for negotiations or a revision of Resolution 242 as the Arab countries have suggested?

[Answer] I have read our Egyptian friends' recent statements. I am not clear about what they mean by "looking for new paths," but I do know that we still have time to conclude our talks successfully. The Israelis have made very concrete proposals for establishing autonomy. There may be other proposals, but on condition that they do not contradict the Camp David agreements. For the moment there is no reason to abandon the prearranged program. I am hopeful of success before 26 May, but, if there is no agreement, I believe we will have to continue negotiations until a result is achieved.

[Question] Since the Iran events, and especially since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the Americans seem to want a rapprochement with a part of the Arab world in order to strengthen their position in the Middle East. To this end Washington clearly seems to be hoping for progress toward settling the Palestine problem. Why did you apparently take this intention as a threat of pressure on Israel when you said that your government was not ready to make concessions outside of the framework of the Camp David agreements?

[Answer] The United States and Israel are friends and allies. We may and do have differences of opinion, but they do not change the profound nature of this friendship. Nevertheless I ask this question: What connection is there between Israel and the invasion of Afghanistan? Are the Soviets occupying Kabul because of Israel? What connections do we have with the Iranian revolution? Such comparisons are completely unreal, since these events prove that Israel's problems have no direct connection with Soviet expansionism's threats to the free world or with a return to the dark days of Iranian fanaticism and Islamic integration. Indeed, these are threats to the democracies of the whole world. But this is a general problem.

Under these conditions, why should we accept the creation of a Palestinian state whose sole aim would be to destroy the security of Israeli democracy? Such a demand stems from a completely distorted view for which we are not prepared to sacrifice ourselves or to pay the price of what is happening in Kabul or Tehran. On the contrary, Israel must be strengthened in such circumstances.

[Question] Are you satisfied with President Carter's explanations on the misunderstandings over U.S. support for the condemnation of Israeli settlement policy, given that, since then, the State Department has made new and very severe criticism of the recently decreed expropriations in East Jerusalem?

[Answer] I have exchanged letters with President Carter. I emphasized that the whole Security Council resolution was hostile to Israel,not merely thepart on which America concentrated. The U.S. vote still distresses us. I notice,however, that President Carter recognizes the contradictions between this text and the Camp David accords. This is very important, especially after President Giscard d'Estaing's stance.

"We Still Have Solid Support"

[Question] Have we not witnessed an erosion of indispensable U.S. support for Israel in recent months?

[Answer] I see no really worrying signs. Sometimes it criticizes us strongly, at other times it supports us totally. I believe that we still have solid support among Jews as among Christians, and this is still the case, I am sure, with the people of France.

[Question] But Israel is showing concern at the amount and type of U.S. arms being delivered to Saudi Arabia and Egypt....

[Answer] This is mainly a question of sophisticated weapons which Saudi Arabia has been promised. This country is hostile toward Israel and there is no knowing what may happen next. Look at what has happened in Iran where there was a formidable arsenal of modern weapons supplied by the United States. There is food for thought here.

[Question] Since President Carter decided not to increase U.S. aid to Israel, the economic and military assistance to Egypt is assuming considerable proportions. Are some Israelis not right to pose the question of a possible reorientation of Washington's policy?

[Answer] In New York after the peace treaty I advised U.S. businessmen to invest in Israel and in Egypt too. This is the result of the new relations between these two countries. Egypt greatly needs aid and I think it is good that the United States is meeting this need.

[Question] As a result of certain aspects of Israeli Government policy do you not see signs of a reduction in the traditional support of the Jewish communities of the diaspora?

[Answer] Clearly we prefer them to demonstrate understanding. Sometimes there is criticism, but we accept this. Undoubtedly we must try to explain ourselves.

[Question] The Egyptian leaders seem to want to proceed more slowly than Israel might wish in normalizing Cairo-Jerusalem relations. Is there not some justification for this reticence?

[Answer] Normalization is a reciprocal process. One side cannot impose its views on the other. In all spheres of our relations we respect and will continue to respect whatever the peace treaty envisages.

[Question] During your last meeting with President as-Sadat at Aswan you studied the development of the Middle East situation with him. Do you think that the two countries can really coordinate their strategies at this level?

[Answer] As we have said, we reviewed regional and international problems and noted the existence of an understanding and common language between us on these matters. With regard to cooperation, President as-Sadat explained that everything will take place in due course. I accept that viewpoint. We do not want to be hasty.

[Question] There will be general elections in Israel next year. A large section of your voters come from the underprivileged classes at present most seriously affected by the economic crisis and the restrictions of an austerity budget which has been particularly curtailed in the social sphere. Is this not an additional reason to fear a defeat at present predicted by all opinion polls?

[Answer] In my view there is no austerity policy. We are experiencing economic problems. Certain painful but necessary measures have had to be taken. I presume that many people will understand that. We will see the results. If there is an economic recovery I imagine that it will be appreciated. In any case everybody is perfectly free to vote as he wishes.

[Question] One of the many criticisms of the settlement policy, even within the majority, is that the government does not have any overall plan and is acting piecemeal....

[Answer] We do have a general plan. However, I would above all like to stress that the creation of the settlements is a right. Jews cannot be prevented from living on this land. It is also a security issue of the utmost importance to our future. The settlements are legal and are not an obstacle to peace inasmuch as they consolidate it. It is a constructive policy. The criticisms do not worry us for it is our duty to follow this policy.

SHAMIR COMMENTS ON AUTONOMY TALKS DEADLINE, U.S. TIES

TA181122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that 26 May is not the final date for the conclusion of the negotiations on the autonomy arrangements but only a date on which it would be advisable to end the negotiations. Yitzhaq Shamir visited the president this morning. After the meeting, Shamir told reporters that he would play an active role in the autonomy talks and added that he is now examining ways to advance the negotiations.

As for relations with the United States, Shamir said that the friendly relationships would continue, and he will do everything to strengthen them.

AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT ISSUED ON RETURN OF REFUGEES

GF191004 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 80 GF

["Text" of Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) Government statement released by the Foreign Ministry Information Department; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] On 27 December 1979, with the beginning of the new phase of the April Revolution, Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, Revolutionary Council chairman and prime minister of the DRA proclaimed the end of the tyrannical and oppressive era of the Aminist criminals. He called on soldiers, the toiling Afghan people, workers, peasants, the intelligentsia and employees, wherever they are, to unite and defend the interests of Afghanistan in a spirit of sacrifice. He also appealed to patriotic clergymen, democratis, liberals, reformers, progressives, youths, the intelligentsia, the vanguards of the working class and the toilers of Afghanistan to unite and prepare to serve the people and the homeland.

Since then, a number of patriotic elements who were abroad have returned to their normal lives and are serving the homeland.

As a result of the false and misleading propaganda disseminated by the enemies of the Afghan revolution, a number of Afghans regrettably are still abroad. It is the Afghan Government's firm hope that they will return to the homeland.

Regarding seasonal migrations, it is worth noting that throughout history Afghans have been on the move and have traveled in Baluchi and Pashtun lands whenever they wished, as though they were traveling in their own lands. They marched forward as far as the shores of the Sind River; they never recognized borders.

Millions of Afghan nomads leave the homeland every winter for the above-mentioned areas and return in the spring. This is part of their nomadic lives. They are not included among the refugees who are [word indistinct] by the enemies.

Regarding the so-called Afghan refugees, the Afghan Government fully differentiates between genuine refugees and those who carry out acts of sabotage and armed aggressions against ehe national and democratic Afghan revolution and the legal DRA Government. The Pakistani Government (?admits) and seeks out these refugee counterrevolutionary elements.

The Afghan Government is following with great anxiety the actions of the United States, the PRC, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and several other states that are extending financial and military assistance to mercinary elements, believing them to be the leaders of Afghan liberation movements. They are training these fugitive gangs in various camps--with the cooperation of Pakistani reactionaries, imperialism, international reactionaries, and expansionist forces--to carry out acts of sabotage against Afghanistan. They are inflicting losses in lives and property on a peace-loving people, who include and aged, women and children, along the country's eastern, southern and western borders. The Afghan Government has evidence and documents proving that the aforementioned states are providing protection for these elements, and that these elements have obtained arms from these states.

Moreover, news media in these states, including the Pakistani press, have reported that these elements are being trained in special camps to carry out acts of sabotage and launch raids against Afghanistan. Spokesmen for these marauders have made flagrant statements on more than one occasion about their destructive actions and raids against Afghan territory.

It is well-known to all that several fundraising centers have been set up in a number of reactionary Arab and imperialist states to render assistance to this agent gang. This politically motivated action is instigative and is but an attempt to exacerbate the situation and heighten tension in the area. It is regrettable that a number of international organizations, contrary to international norms and custom, have been influenced by these states. The extension of any form of assistance to these mercenary elements supports their destructive deeds. This financial assistance is being used to purchase arms and other means of destruction.

Thus, Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan's affairs are increasing and heightening tension in the area. This is [words indistinct] the United Nations and its charter.

The DRA Government is quite certain that instead of stabilizing and consolidating peace in this part of the world, such assistance and the instigation of marauders will cause division, enmity and bloodshed and will ultimately create a climate of constant confrontation and serious tension. This will (?undermine) the general international situation.

As for the genuine and well-meaning refugees, they originally left the country as a result of the climate of oppression and fear created by Amin's fascist regime at the instigation of Afghanistan's enemies prior to 27 December 1979. It should be noted that the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Government have made their position on this matter quite clear. On 25 January 1980, Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee, Revolutionary Council chairman and prime minister said: We declare that if the clergymen, ulemas, religious scholars, tribal chiefs and [words indistinct] who left Afghanistan should return to their homeland, they will be treated with respect. Their full freedom and protection will be guaranteed, their usurped ranks, posts and property will be returned and their freedom to work and pursue their activities will be safeguarded provided that they do not oppose the interests of the people and the state and the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

In accordance with the DRA Government communique of 8 February, citizens whose property was confiscated in violation of the principles of the revolution, or their legal heirs, are requested to personally report to the office of [word indistinct] nationalized property in Kabul and the financial directorates in the provinces. They should present documents proving their ownership.

The DRA Government is prepared to reciprocate every form of sincere cooperation to bring about the return of these refugees. Regarding the return and resettlement of these refugees and their families, the DRA Government welcomes the cooperation of groups in friendly and fraternal Muslim states that are approved by the competent authorities. The DRA Government hopes that all peace-loving states will cooperate sincerely in this matter and that the competent authorities in the Pakistani Government will cooperate instead of blocking the return of Afghan refugees to their homes. It also hopes they will take into consideration the good actions of the Afghan Government, which, during this new phase of the revolution, values the [word indistinct] fraternal relations between the Afghan and Pakistani peoples.

The DRA Government hope that the necessary efforts will be made to return Afghan refugees to their country, and draws the attention of those persons concerned with the general amnesty proclaimed by the state in this regard.

The DRA Government hopes that all Afghans who were deceived by the propaganda of the revolution's enemies will return to the homeland in response to the general amnesty that has been proclaimed and will understand the state's situation and efforts in the new phase of the April Revolution. International aid is being provided to continue to shelter and resettle the refugees and to help them in their various fields of work, The DRA Government must be the channel through which international aid is funneled to the refugees who have returned and have been resettled. The Afghan Government is fully prepared to cooperate with such international agencies. The DRA Government is confident that this action is not only useful for solving the refugees issues, but that it will also further the establishment of peace in this region and eliminate the danger threatening Afghanistan's borders--a matter that will have a positive effect on the progress of detente and the improvement of international relations.

LE MATIN REPORTS SERIOUS FIGHTING, PAKISTAN'S ROLE

LD181315 Paris LE MATIN in French 13 Mar 80 p 8 LD

[Herve Chabalier dispatch: "Afghanistan--Nothing is Stopping the Russian Bulldozer"]

[Text] Peshawar--Serious clashes apparently took place at the beginning of the week around the city of Jalalabad on the road which links Kabul with the Pakistani border. According to rebel envoys arriving in Peshawar, mojahedin have seized a post held by the Afghan Army on the archeological site of (Tapai Forme Adda). This post is 4 km from Jalalabad, in the airport sector. Four tanks were apparently crippled and burned. In Tangi [as received], north of Jalalabad, guerillas intercepted two buses and ordered the passengers to leave the vehicles before setting fire to them. The road which links Pakistan and Afghanistan is becoming less safe each day. Moreover on Monday alone 280 soldiers from the regular army joined the rebels. These deserters are now in the (Samaerkhen) region. These successes bear witness to the rebels' combativeness in view of the serious setbacks they have encountered in recent weeks and the many men they lost.

However there are a growing number of reports stressing the lack of motivation in some Soviets corps. A large part of the Russian occupation army consists of Muslim soldiers from Central Asia. They do not like fighting their fellow believers. Some 4,000 of these Asian Soviets have been sent back to their barracks. The Soviet supreme command is now avoiding sending Muslims into the most tense sectors.

However neither the valiance of the mojahedin or the lack of enthusiam shown by a few thousand Soviet soldiers seriously seems capable of halting the Russian bulldozer. The rebels, confronted with an extremely well equipped army, are suffering more and more from their lack of modern weapons. There is no indication that this situation will change in the near future. Pakistan has just reaffirmed through its President General Zia in Lahore its desire for neutrality in the conflict. Mentioning his country's rejection of $400 million aid offered by the United States, he said: "It is not a question of whether this aid is adequate or not. [paragraph continues]

Pakistan must seek the best way of insuring its security while maintaining its nonalined position and without renouncing its membership of the Muslim world. "Our country," he said, "must not become anybody's protege."

For the rebels that means that Pakistan is not prepared to supply military aid. A Pakistani official told me: "It would be suicidal to give weapons to the mojahedin while rejecting U.S. aid." He also said: "As long as Pakistan adheres to this position there can be no question of weapons provided by other powers for the Afghan rebels passing through our country."

Moreover Pakistani soldiers posted on the border have been ordered to show moderation and great caution. The Pakistanis are, above all, anxious to avoid any incident with the Soviets. The authorities are afraid that the Soviets might pursue the mojahedin into Pakistani territory and force them to respond. The Islamabad government is stepping up its efforts to avoid aggravating the few incidents which have occurred since the Soviet troops invaded, particularly violations of Pakistani airspace. When on 1 February an Antonov plane penetrated deep into Pakistani territory, two Pakistani MiG 19s merely escorted it back to Afghanistan.

At present the Red Army advance forces are 4 km from the Pakistani border. Deprived of arms supplies but authorized to have premises in Peshawar, the various rebel organizations hope to receive support from fraternal Muslims countries. It is taking a long time to arrive.... Only Saudi Arabia is giving money, and not very much at that. An official from Hezb-e Eslami--one of the rebel groups--remarked resignedly: "It is their duty as Muslims to help us. If they do not, Allah will judge them."

Soviet, Afghan Units Clash

LD190927 Paris L'AURORE in French 17 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Heavy Fighting in Afghanistan"]

[Text] Units of the Soviet and Afghan regular armies were apparently involved in a 3-hour confrontation in the city of Gardez, capital of Paktia Province in eastern Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the nationalist organization Hezb-e Eslami stated that the confrontation was a consequence of a significant defeat which the two armies had just suffered north of Gardez. For 4 days, Hezb-e Eslami explained, 85 Afghan tanks and 4,000 soldiers supported by helicopters and bombers attacked mojahedin entrenched in the mountains around the small town of Kunduz.

More than 250 Afghan soldiers have apparently been killed in this fighting. Mojahedin resistance and very low temperatures, which seem to have caused the deaths of some 20 Afghan soldiers who were found frozen, forced the attackers to withdraw.

Hezb-e Eslami asserts that shots were exchanged between Afghan Government and Soviet soldiers on their way back to their bases. The incident must have been settled since, according to the latest reports which have reached the nationalists, the Paktia offensive is being pursued.

For the past few weeks the Afghans have no longer played any active role in the operations waged against Muslim guerrillas. Cooperation seems to have been resumed under difficult conditions; according to opposition members, there have been many instances of desertion, and government soldiers have to surrender their arms at night.

It is being said in Islamabad that the Soviet troops' morale has also been affected. "Many Soviet soldiers are inexperienced and, according to some reports, the infantry really seems afraid of fighting. Soldiers avoid leaving their armored vehicles and rush back to them at the least sign of danger," the same report continues. "Some of them have been selling weapons which they find on the battlefield to buy cigarettes and chocolate in the bazaars."

In Konarha Province the bombing of columns of refugees on their way to Pakistan has apparently become less intensive.

In Peshawar the alliance of nationalist organizations asserts in a communique that the number of Afghans killed by bombs since the beginning of Soviet intervention totals 300,000. According to the communique, 40,000 more people were executed in Afghan prisons and 1 million are homeless. "The Soviets have not only destroyed cities and villages and slaughtered their inhabitants," the communique continues, "but have also used toxic gases and bacteriological weapons to eliminate Muslims."

Rebels Down Planes

BK181731 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Text] PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoting latest reports says the freedom fighters in Afghanistan have brought down two air force planes and destroyed five armored cars in the (Chinghazi) area of Nangarhar Province. They have also killed more than 100 troops.

According to the report, the freedom fighters attacked (?Halton) bridge over Kabul-Jalalabad road and killed or wounded many Afghan troops. In Herat, the report adds that freedom fighters attacked a convoy near (?Kovan) bridge. They killed many troops, destroyed their vehicles, snatched their arms and disappeared in the jungles before reinforcements could arrive.

In Qandahar, mojahedin badly damaged (?Tinkarare) bridge which connects (?Mozam) district with (?Ghist) district. This has effectively impeded the movement of Afghan and Soviet troops in the Qandahar area.

ISLAMIC ALLIANCE NAMES ABDUL RUSUL SAIF CHAIRMAN

BK191102 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Prof Abdul Rusul Saif was elected as chairman of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan. The alliance, which comprises (?of) various religious-cum-political Afghan groups, was formed in January last with Prof Buranuddhin Rabbani as its convener.

Prof Abdul Rusul Saif, the first chairman of the alliance, is a prominent scholar of Afghanistan and was confined to jail during the Da'ud regime and was released recently.

Heroic comrades, officers and courageous NCO's: It is my pleasure to meet you in such an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity, and convey to you the warm and sincere regard to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA.

In conclusion the vice president of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister said: It is the duty of all the struggling and strong members of the PDPA to explain to our toiling and oppressed people our government's request to the USSR for military assistance, and the arrival of the limited military contingents of that country for the purpose of repelling the foreign aggression on our country. We wish to let them know that, if the PDPA and the government of the DRA had not taken this vital and necessary measure in time, God forbid, grave consequences would have threatened the independence of the homeland, the great Sawr Revolution and our territorial integrity.

According to another report, Asadollah Sarwari and the delegation accompanying him visited the shrine of Kherqa and prayed to the holy soul of the Prophet Muhammad. They also visited the shrine of Mir Ways in the Kokran of Qandahar and prayed for the soul of this great man of history and to the soul of those martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the victory of the great Sawr Revolution. The delegation was accompanied by the governor of Qandahar, members of the provincial and city committees and heads of department.

Following this Asadollah Sarwari and his companions took part in a meeting in the municipal hall of Qandahar city. The meeting was opened by the reading of a few verses from the Koran, and after the playing of the national anthem, the vice president of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister conveyed the warm and sincere greetings of Babrak Karmal to the audience. He said: The bestial Amin and his terrorist band wanted to destroy our beloved homeland and realize the foul desires of his imperialist masters. But fortunately, thanks to the wisdom and revolutionary capability of the loyal members of the PDPA and with the cooperation and sacrifice of our toiling people, officers and brave soldiers, the sinister conspiracy of Hafizollah Amin and U.S. imperialism were foiled allowing the successful development of the new stage of the Sawr Revolution. Our oppressed and toiling people were freed from his atrocities and injustices.

Asadollah Sarwari added: With the success of the new stage of the grand Sawr Revolution oppression, cruelty, injustice, irregularities, nail extraction, jail--all have left our society. Pointing to the actions of our homeland's enemies, the vice president of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister, said that they want to deceive our free people, just as they did at the time of Amanollah Khan. They want to divert dear Afghanistan from the path of progress and development.

At the end of his speech Asadollah Sarwari invited the brave and noble people of Qandahar to rally around the broad national front of the fatherland, defend the soil, the homeland, and the national honor of their country and eliminate the enemies of the Sawr Revolution.

DEPUTY PREMIER SARWARI VISITS QANDAHAR ARMY COMMAND

GF181900 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 80 GF

[Text] Asadollah Sarwari, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee Politburo member, Revolutionary Council deputy chairman and deputy prime minister, accompanied by Interior Minister Mohammad Golabzoy, and general [name indistinct], director general of political affairs in the armed forces, arrived in Qandahar yesterday.

The deputy Revolutionary Council chairman and deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him, attended a reception hosted by the officers and noncommissioned officers of the Qandahar armed forces and party activists at the 15th division's club at 1400.

Addressing the heroic officers and noncommissioned officers, Sarwari said: I am pleased to meet with you in a climate where friendliness and (?loyalty) prevail and to convey to you the sincere greetings of Babrak Karmal. The valiant army of the people of Afghanistan have carried out heroic acts that will not pass unnoticed in our country's history. Asadollah Sarwari added: [Words indistinct] in this historic stage that the members of the heroic army should carry out their duties and responsibilities (?more swiftly) than ever and maintain the unity of their proud [words indistinct].

In conclusion, the commander of the Qandahar (?2d) army delivered a speech in which he said he is confident that the members of the Qandahar armed forces will preserve the unity of their ranks [words indistinct] and will carry out their duties fully.

Asadollah Sarwari and the delegation accompanying him visited a blessed shrine and said prayers for the soul of the Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace be upon him.

More on Visit

LD182256 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Asadollah Sarwari member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan's Central Committee Politburo, vice-president of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister, arrived in Qandahar at 1100 yesterday. He was accompanied by Said Mohammad Golabzoy, minister of interior, and Colonel Gol Aqa, director general of political affairs in the armed forces.

Asadollah Sarwari and the delegation accompanying him was welcomed by the provincial committee secretary, the governor of Qandahar, army unit II, sarandoy [police], military units and the members of the provincial and city committees, party activists, heads of departments and residents of Qandahar city. The vice president of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister and the delegation accompanying him participated in a meeting at the 15th division's club organized by officers and NCO's of the Qandahar armed forces and party activists of that unit.

At the beginning of the meeting a few verses of the holy Koran were read and after the national anthem of the DRA was played. Asadollah Sarwari made a speech. He said:

In conclusion, on behalf of the noble people of Qandahar city and province, a citizen thanked the revolutionary government for its efforts. He said the people are willing to make every sacrifice and are ready to defend Afghanistan and safeguard the lofty objectives of the Sawr Revolution. Finally, he asked Asadollah Sarwari, vice president of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister, to convey to Babrak Karmal the warm and sincere regard of the brave people of Qandahar.

KABUL ANNOUNCES 22 ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

LD182354 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Council of Ministers Secretariat reports that on the approval of the Council of Ministers and the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, the following appointments have been made:

In the interior ministry: 'Abdol 'Aziz ('Alem) as governor of Badakhshan; Amir (Zaib) Jawan, governor of Laghman; 'Abdol Wasi'a Hakimi, in grade two, as the general director of planning; Mohammad Hashim Watanwal, in grade two, general director of administration.

In the Ministry of Transportation and Tourism: Ghulam Jailani, in (?above incremental) scale, as the deputy of that ministry; Engineer Akhtar Mohammad (Misha'i), grade two, general director of aviation; Sayyed Hussain Solhdost, general director of the Afghan international company; Ghulam Rahman Amiri, grade two, the general director of tourism; Shair Mohammad, grade one, general director of highways; Ghulam Hazrat, grade two, deputy of land transport; Lt Col Abdol Latif, grade two, general director of the Bakhtar Afghan airlines; Sha Jahan, grade two, deputy to the general director of tourism.

In the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform: Mohammad Hassan Keshtyar, in grade two, as the general director of forestry and grazing; Jon Mohammad, grade two, deputy general director of propagation and agricultural production; 'Abdol Wadud Zafary, grade two, general director of agricultural development cooperatives; Mobarak Ahmad Amadyar, grade two, general director of [name indistinct]; Ghulam Sakhi Akbari, grade two, board of experts of the Department of Propagation and Agricultural Production; 'Abdol Hadi Samadzadah, grade two, board of experts of the Department of Propagation and Agricultural Production; Mohammad Na'im, the deputy for administration and finance of the general directorate of the Afghan Fertilizer Company.

In the Ministry of Mines and Industries: Dr Wali Mohammad (Abdiani), in grade one as the general director of Herat cement; mohammad (Hafix Turoghi); grade two, as the (?electric power) deputy of Mazar-e Sharif.

In the Ministry of Public Health: Dr Parwin, in grade two as manager of Malalai (maternity).

Of the 22 new appointees, 15 are party members and 7 are nonparty appointees.

KABUL REPORTS RELEASE OF 309 ADDITIONAL PRISONERS

LD190045 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In accordance with the announcement of the national security authorities on 1 March, and in accordance with the humanitarian policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, 309 persons among those who were captured during the events of 21-22 February in the city of Kabul and who were involved in those events due to the instigatory and provocative propaganda of the sworn enemies of Afghanistan, have been released from prison. With the release of these accused people today, a total of 1,387 persons who were under surveilance have now been set free.

At the ceremony marking the release of these persons, one of the accused made a statement. In the course of his speech thanking the [word indistinct] and the government, concerning the [word indistinct] and the comfort of the country's toilers, he said: the revolutionary Government of Afghanistan, for the purpose of securing the peace and prosperity of the compatriots, has not spared any effort and has made tireless endeavors. But anti-revolutionary forces--with the unholy cooperation of U.S. imperialism, the reactionary circles of Pakistan, Chinese chauvinism and other reactionary groups--have acted shamelessly against the interests of our toilers. They somehow create obstacles in this way, but the party and the government of Afghanistan is relentlessly crushing them.

A spokesman for the country's security authorities said that the release of these persons who were under surveillance has been carried out after a full investigation of their cases by the commission for the investigation of the prisoners. He added the work of the commission in continuing speedily.

A BAKHTAR reporter adds that, following the release of these accused, a resolution which they prepared was read by one of their number. In this resolution it is stated that internal reactionary forces with the support of the international imperialism, lead by the U.S. imperialism, have continually tried to put the people of this country under pressure. In order to save their imperialist and antihuman interests, they put the destinies of our people at the hands of the most foul and ugly agents of the [words indistinct] so that they will embark on the loot and plunder of the wealth and honor of the toilers of the country.

CAPTURED PRC AGENTS TO BE SHOWN ON TV

BK190745 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 19 Mar (AFP)--The Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal government would shortly screen on Kabul television Chinese agents captured in Konarha, in the eastern Nangarhar Province. [as received] Recently, the PTI news agency reported today from Kabul.

The agency did not give the number of Chinese agents detained by the Afghan Army. It said they were in addition to the 16 Pakistanis and two alleged American CIA agents, Robert Lee and Charles Brockunier, who were arrested in the days following the violent anti-Russian riots of last month.

The Pakistanis and Mr Lee had already been shown on Kabul television, it added.

KABUL SHOPKEEPERS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT

GF181443 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 18 Mar 80 GF

[Text] Religious leaders and shopkeepers in Kabul, in their [word indistinct], said today that they understand the progressive aims of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. They recognized the criminal activities of [word indistinct] traitors, bloodthirsty American imperialists, Chinese hegemonists, Egyptians, Israelis and Pakistanis. These elements are responsible for the damage to life and property in our country. They pledged that they would never again fall into the enemy's trap. They then called for a holy war and offered their full cooperation to the progressive and revolutionary government in eliminating these elements.

PANJSHERI COMMENTS ON RELEASE OF 87 PRISONERS IN HERAT

LD171600 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 16 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Dastagir Panjsheri, member of the Politbureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee and member of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], today in the afternoon met 87 political prisoners of Herat city who a few days ago were deceived by the misleading propaganda of the servants and mercenaries of U.S. imperialism, Britain, China and the reaction of Pakistan and the area and had embarked on organized seditionist and provocative demonstrations, which knowingly or unknowingly these [word indistinct] enemies of the security, had (?endangered) the free and peaceful life of the citizens. Panjsheri explaining the current and general policy of the party and the DRA Government to the political prisoners of Herat said: The main objective of the party and the DRA, after the new stage of the Sawr Revolution, is the realization of the rights and democratic freedom of the people, retraining the people with a sense of patriotism, and [word indistinct] work, and noncompromise with reaction, imperialism (?oppression) and [word indistinct] with the law of defense, development and prosperity for the oppressed masses of the free and independent Afghanistan.

Dastagir Panjsheri added that based on the humanitarian policy of the party and the DRA's government leadership, and with the instruction of the PDPA Central Committee and the personal instruction of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, the investigation of the political prisoners of the Herat city, which took place in the presence of representatives of the party, the prosecutor's office and security authorities, 87 prisoners were released. Panjsheri added when announcing the release of the political prisoners: Now when you are returning to the warm core of your families, take the warm greetings of the party, government and your president of the Revolutionary Council to your relatives and warn them not to listen after this to the deceptive propaganda of [word indistinct], and to be vigilant, not to become the victims of murderers, or the servants of U.S. and British imperialism, Chinese adventurers and the reaction of Pakistan, Egypt and Israel. On the contrary, stand by the side of the party, government, the revolutionary armed forces and police and with the party authorities, shoulder to shoulder carry on revolutionary work and struggle, and fulfill your duties to safeguard the national independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the defense of the revolution and the achievements of the Sawr Revolution with pride and dignity.

High-ranking government and party members, the governor of Herat Province, the commander of the armed forces, the secretary of the province, the secretary of the provincial committee and a number of officials of Herat Province were present during the announcement of the release of the Herat city political prisoners. Support the new stage of the Sawr Revolution and expose the conspiracies of the lackeys of reaction and U.S. imperialism, and the reactionary forces of the region and the world, a grand meeting was held by the soldiers, NCOS and the officers of the 17th Division of Herat in the premises of the headquarters of the division yesterday afternoon. At this meeting which was opened with the reading of a few verses of the Koran and the playing of the national anthem of the DRA, Dastagir Panjsheri, member of the Politbureau of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, made a speech regarding the government and the successes of the Sawr Revolution. He said: The main objective of the party and the government of the DRA and its leadership is the realization of the rights and democratic freedoms of the oppressed people of Afghanistan and the creation of a well-off and flourishing society.

After that the military commander of the armed forces of Herat Province made a speech and said: The soldiers and the officers of the armed forces, because of the responsibilities which they have for the defense of the holy soil of the homeland, are determined to carry this historic mission uninterrupted. At the end of these speeches, a concept by the artistic group of the 17th Division of Herat was staged which was well received by the audience. Mir Tahmas Rauf, the governor of Herat, the secretary of provincial committee and other officials of Herat city were present at this meeting.

MINISTERS VISIT PASHTUN LEADER IN HOSPITAL

LD141748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Col Mohammad Rafi', minister of national defense, today at 1600 visited Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader, in the academy of medical sciences hospital of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan.

Also Fayz Mohammad, minister of frontier affairs visited Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader, at 1700.

Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, who is ill, has been under treatment for sometime in the hospital of the academy of medical sciences of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan.

Sarwari Visit

LD160012 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Assadollah Sarwari, member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council and deputy prime minister, visited Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader. The great Pashtun leader is under treatment in the hospital of the medical sciences academy of the Armed Forces.

TEXTILE MILL WORKERS FORM RESISTANCE GROUP

LD160014 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In pursuit and in support of the valuable and national [as heard] speech of the [word indistinct] of Babrak Karmal, a number of the workers of the Golbahar textile mill have formed a voluntary resistance group to demonstrate their preparedness to wage a just and hard struggle against the enemies of the country and the Great Sawr Revolution.

In a meeting which was held by the workers at the factory last week, the general president of the workers union and a member of the provincial committee of the Parvan Province, explained the role of the formation of resistance groups by our youth and toiling people for the safeguarding of the territorial integrity and the achievements of the Great Sawr Revolution through their speeches.

BANGLADESH

PRC VICE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS LEAVES DACCA 16 MAR

BK161051 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 16 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Chinese Vice Minister for Communications He Zhangsheng has said he was very happy to see the progress Bangladesh has achieved in the agriculture, industry and shipping sectors. He was talking to newsmen at the Dacca airport today on the eve of his departure for home.

The Chinese vice minister, who led a five-member shipping delegation, said that he had very fruitful discussions with Bangladesh officials on bilateral shipping cooperation in the light of the maritime agreement signed in 1978 between the two countries.

Replying to a question on a Bangladesh proposal for maritime freight structure between Bangladesh and China, the leader of the Chinese shipping delegation said the issue will be decided by the Chinese parliament. He, however, hoped that the proposal will be considered in the light of the friendly relationship between the two countries. He Zhangsheng further said the 10-day visit of his delegation will promote greater cooperation between the two countries, particularly, in the shipping field. He expressed the hope his talks with Bangladesh officials will be helpful toward implementation of the maritime agreement between the two countries.

Shipping Route Opened

BK161053 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 14 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Bangladesh Shipping Corporation [BSC] is to open a Bangladesh-China Far East and Japan route from the 22d of this month. The BSC will (?first) send its vessel to China under the bilateral maritime arrangement signed between the two countries recently.

U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS FOR NEPAL 17 MAR

BK170445 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[Text] American Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Mrs Patricia M. Derian has gone to Nepal at the end of her 4-day visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen in Dacca before her departure yesterday, Mrs Derian said she was familiarizing herself with the countries of the region. She also explained President Carter's policy and his administration's commitment to increase aid (?flow) to the countries of the region.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state, now on a five-nation tour of the South Asian countries, will also visit Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR TURNING IN WEAPONS

BK181011 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Government has decided to extend the period of amnesty for the surrender of arms, components, explosives and ammunition up to the 29th of this month.

The decision followed substantial surrender of arms and ammunition at different places in response to the government's amnesty. The present amnesty date expires tomorrow.

As already announced, the arms and components are to be deposited to any branch of the nationalized bank or to thana [police] headquarters or to the deputy commissioner or subdivisional officer concerned. The explosives and ammunition are to be deposited to the local police stations only.

INDIA

TIMES OF INDIA ON AID TO PAKISTAN, INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

BK171547 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Mar 80 p 8 BK

[Article by Inder Malhotra: "Dialog With Pakistan--Promise and Pitfalls"]

[Text] Pakistan's rejection of the U.S. package of economic and military aid creates a promising atmosphere for the continuation of the India-Pakistan dialogue that began with Mr. R.D. Sathe's visit to Islamabad in the wake of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. There is another encouraging factor to which competent Pakistan watchers bear testimony. Never before has public opinion in the country next door been so enthusiastic about a rapprochement with India as now.

Most Pakistanis have become wiser by experience. They have seen for themselves how hollow is the persistent propaganda that India is not reconciled to Pakistan's existence. Nor have the lessons of 1965 and 1971 been lost on them. They are troubled also by the tragic turn that events at home have taken in recent years. And they realise that no amount of American military aid--China has frankly told them that its capacity to offer arms assistance is strictly limited--can enable them to take on the Soviet Union.

But while all this is highly welcome it is necessary neither to magnify the hopeful factors nor to minimise the difficulties and hazards that lie ahead. From the days of the Nehru-Liaqat agreement in 1950 to the Tashkent talks in 1966 and the Simla Agreement six years later the course of India-Pakistan negotiations is littered with the wreckage of exaggerated expectations. Even the Janata government's effervescense over "good neighbourliness" could never obscure the paltriness of the improvement in relations with Pakistan.

Against this backdrop it is only realistic to take note of at least two important constraints on progress in any Indo-Pakistan dialogue at this stage.

First, what Pakistan has rejected is the size of the package offered by the U.S., not the principle of outside military interference in the sub-continent. The small print in the Pakistani statement makes it clear that Islamabad retains the option to accept both economic aid and military supplies from the U.S. if their quantum is adequate and if their quantum is adequate and if their terms are satisfied. It is noteworthy that one of the terms Mr. Agha Shahi sought but failed to secure from Mr. Brzezinski, was that the 1959 security agreement between the U.S. and Pakistan should be broadened to cover threats from India as well.

Indeed, according to Pakistani sources themselves, Islamabad has told Washington that since economic aid to Pakistan was unilterally terminated by President Carter, it is up to him to resume it or not.

As for military supplies, the Pakistanis say that these are being offered not as aid but on long term credit at 11 percent interest per year. They argue therefore that the U.S. should specify the military equipment it is in a position to supply them and they would raise the necessary cash for it from their Islamic brethren.

Secondly, the more the people of Pakistan want good relations with this country the stronger becomes the resistance of what can only be called the hard-core lobby of India-haters. Though small, it is an extremely influential group by virtue of being entrenched in positions of power in the military, bureaucracy, newspapers and industry.

The negative attitude of this group is best illustrated by what happened recently when, alarmed by the declining productivity in agriculture, the Government of Pakistan called in Dr. Norman Bolaug, the father of the green revolution, for advice.

Understandably he told his hosts that all they had to do was look across and seek Indian help and counsel to set things right. To this the response of the Pakistani official presiding over the meeting was: "Over my dead body."

There is an even bigger pitfall on the road to rapprochement with Pakistan of which even the United States had to take notice. Whoever tries to befriend Pakistan at this stage automatically shores up the unpopular military regime, headed by General Ziaul Haq, and thus runs the risk of alienating the people of Pakistan who may have been silenced by the threat of flogging but whose craving for free and fair elections is beyond doubt.

Mrs. Gandhi is evidently alive to this. For, in her interviews to a French and an Italian newspaper she has pointedly stated that the U.S. might land itself in Pakistan in the same kind of mess from which it is trying to extricate itself in Iran. (Mr. Agha Shahi found it necessary publicly to object to these interviews, ironically, at the precise moment when the Pakistani ambassador, Mr. Abdus Sattar, was praising Mrs. Gandhi as the architect of the Simla Agreement and the initiator of the subsequent move to normalise relations between India and Pakistan).

The latest reports from Islamabad about an alleged coup aimed at Gen. Zia's overthrow only underscore the prime minister's warning. The Pakistani Government has denied the attempted coup and it may well be right in doing so. But there can be no doubt that the jealousies and bickenings among the Pakistani top brass, which had temporarily subsided after the Russians marched into Afghanistan, have not only reappeared but become more acute than before.

This is because Gen. Zia's self-extended term as chief of army staff expired on March 6. And yet he has neither extended it further nor offered to retire from the army while remaining president. Since his command of the army is his only power base his reluctance to abandon it is understandable. But the trouble is that he cannot extend his own term as army chief further without giving similar extensions to the four senior lieutenant-generals--including Lt. Gen. Iqbal, mentioned in connection of the reported coup--who have bluntly told him that they would retire only when he does. And if Gen. Zia and the four seniormost corps commanders stick to their posts, what happens to major-generals already overdue for promotion. In the circumstances, Gen. Zia's announcement that he intends to reconstitute by March 23--the Pakistan national day--his cabinet by including in it "serving and retired army officers" cannot but have an unsettling effect.

With all this, however, this country has to do business with whoever is in power in Pakistan. But while doing so it would not be impossible to convey to the people of Pakistan that the government and people of India share their democratic aspirations.

For its part, Pakistan has some sensitivities which India ought to respect. Gen. Zia was being rather testy when he declared that every time his country tried to acquire a few guns, "the Indians begin to yell." But he does have a point because some Indian statements have unfrotunately given the impression that this country objects to any and every Pakistani attempt to buy arms to modernise or expand its armed forces. This, of course, is not the Indian position.

Far from wanting to see Pakistan weak and defenceless, India has a stake in a strong, united and stable Pakistan. What kind of arms Pakistan buys from where is entirely its business. What India objects to and will continue to object to is any attempt on the part of the U.S. or any other big power to pump in arms which will help Pakistan artificially to bolster it as a counter-poise to this country. No Indian can forget, moreover, that the U.S. arms supplied to Pakistan in the past to fight communism were used against India.

It is also regrettable that Pakistani spokesmen from General Zia downwards are indulging in demonstrably false propaganda that India has an army six times larger than Pakistan's an air force ten times as large and a navy 12 times the size of the Pakistani fleet.

Impartial foreign experts can verify that the ratio between the three armed forces of India and Pakistan is closer to 2 to 1 than to the wild claims made by Pakistan. Moreover, since nearly half the Indian Army is deployed on the northern border with China, the Indian and Pakistani deployments of the ground troops are almost exactly equal, with the Pakistanis having an enormous logistical advantage, given the very short distances between the border and their cantonments.

However, doubts on this score or any other can be easily removed if the two countries continue to talk in a cordial and constructive spirit. In his reply to Mrs. Gandhi's letter, Gen. Zia suggested that the level of negotiations should be raised to that of foreign ministers. This suggestion deserves to be accepted without delay.

PATRIOT on Pakistan's policy

BK170221 Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 79 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Crosscurrents"]

[Text] There has certainly been some rethinking in the belligerent camp on the question of Afghanistan. Even President Carter is not his former bellicose self. But the change in Pakistan's posture is more notable. The cry of holy war has been switched off and replaced by seemingly reasonable suggestions about mutually acceptable agreements. Talking to newsmen on Sunday General Ziaul Haq said that efforts were being made to improve relations with India and that his country wanted good relations with the Soviet Union. His country, the general said, has kept "its options open" on contacts with the Soviet Union and that Pakistan would be talking to the United States "within the framework of non-alignment" and that within this framework he would "buy security" for his country. [paragraph continues]

There may be two reasons for this measured retreat: Firstly, the general has come to see that the Soviet Union cannot be browbeaten by American and Pakistani sabre-rattling and Beijing's machinations; secondly, he has failed to induce the U.S. administration to raise unconditionally the "peanut" aid already promised to him. Above all, he may be afraid that any escalation of trouble on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan will be disastrous for his country and his personal power, which is dearer to him than any other thing.

The change in the general's stance is obvious, yet the basis of his policy remains unchanged. He still believes, as his interview with a West German magazine indicated, that "the antidote to a super-power is another super-power" and, therefore, the 1959 U.S.-Pakistan military agreement must be strengthened to secure treaty-bound guarantees for Pakistan's security. This obviously means that the general instead of asserting his independence within the framework of nonalignment is actually seeking to integrate his country's security with the U.S. military strategy in the region. There is a world of difference between India's approach to peace and security in the region and Pakistan's view. This is also reflected in their divergent views on the solution of the Afghan problem. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in her speech in Ahmedabad also spoke of nonalignment, but she warned against dependence or subservience to any foreign power and went on to point out that many countries were interfering directly or indirectly in Afghanistan. She criticized the Western powers for raising a hue and cry over Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, while these very countries had remained silent when China intervened in Vietnam. This is true of Pakistan also, which joined the West in its cold war campaign and permitted itself to be used as a decoy to tempt other Muslim countries to form a pro-imperialist bloc.

At present the general is trying to reconcile two contradictory positions--military subservience to the United States and independent nonalignment. In his propaganda statements he is emphasising non-alignment and his willingness to seek goodneighbourly relations with Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, but it has not yet sought to revive diplomatic communications with Kabul and is still seeking treaty guarantees in the military field with the United States. This contradiction must be resolved in favour of honourable peace and security in the region.

RADIO COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES INDIAN ROLE IN AFGHAN CRISIS

BK171110 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Mar 80 BK

[News commentary by N.S. Bedi, All India Radio commentator]

[Text] For the past several weeks India has been holding consultations at various levels with friendly countries in a bid to defuse the Afghanistan situation. It has never been possible to evolve an agreed workable solution to a complex problem in such a short time. What has been gained so far is that this country's initiative is now widely appreciated and encouraged.

The Indian point of view was very forcefully put forth by External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao while talking to newsmen at London airport the other day. He said we are not looking backwards and passing judgement. But, we are more concerned about the future and evolving a satisfactory solution. This indeed is a pragmatic approach, for nothing substantial can be achieved by indicting any one side. It is not even possible to do so. True, Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan and are still there. But, as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has rightly pointed out, foreign intervention is not a new thing.

It has been continuing for many years and several countries have been directly or indirectly involved in Afghanistan. The Soviets will have to leave Afghanistan and they say they will. But conditions will have to be created to facilitate the pullout. The Afghan Government asks for a dependable guarantee about the country's security and territorial integrity before any Russian military withdrawal can take place. That, needless to say, is the Soviet line too.

Among the various moves, there is a British proposal somewhat akin to that of the EEC countries which favors a neutral Afghanistan. The idea is vaque, looks impracticable and also has not found wide acceptance, not even by Pakistan. President Ziaul Haq has come out with a 3-point plan. It proposed stationing of an international force in Afghanistan, international inspection of refugee camps in Pakistan or else sealing of the border by the Afghan authorities. Kabul has rejected the plan outright. There is thus no progress yet and the matter stands where it was. General Zia has expressed opposition to a regional approach. The reason given by him, in a recent interview with an Indian news magazine, is that there is no regional organization here and no clear concept of the region. The argument is not quite valid. For regional groups of nations have acted effectively in the United Nations and outside. The joint action taken by the frontline states in southern Africa has contributed greatly to the solution of the Zimbabwe issue. Without that, the Zimbabwe nationalists would have remained isolated and weak. This is but one very recent example.

Though the Afghanistan problem is completely different, this does not diminish the relevance or the need for a regional approach. If the Afghanistan issue is to be taken out of the global strategic consideration of the big powers, such approach seems essential. The remedy clearly lies in giving up the military way of tackling problems and eschewing armed intervention. A negotiated settlement through peaceful means must be sought and it is to that end that India's efforts are directed. It is not in this country's interest to see Pakistan or any other nation of the subcontinent weakened or destabilized. The strength of the entire region depends on its individual countries being stable and self reliant. India has age-old ties of friendship with the brave Afghan people. It earnestly wants them to overcome their present difficulties and to make progress. This country's aim is to defuse the warlike situation and prevent the region from becoming engulfed in a big power conflict. All peace-loving nations should join in this quest. A consensus must be evolved in the subcontinent and there should be unity of purpose. The powers directly or indirectly involved should on their part try to reduce tension. A process of accord can then be set in motion. There is just no other way out.

TIMES OF INDIA VIEWS GANDHI'S NUCLEAR POLICY

BK180631 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Mar 80 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Clarity at Last"]

[Text] Mrs. Gandhi's statement on nuclear policy in the Rajya Sabha removes unnecessary confusion and outlines the government's stand with refreshing clarity. While she has reaffirmed the policy of using nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes, she has said that, far from being given up, peaceful nuclear explosions would be carried out "in national interest". This should end the doubts which former prime minister Mr. Morarji Desai's contradictory statements had created. [paragraph Continues]

In a speech to the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament, Mr. Desai had forsworn even peaceful nuclear explosions and had gone to the extent of questioning both the necessity and the wisdom of the Pokharan test in 1974. In reply, Mrs. Gandhi set the record straight. She pointed out that though Mr. Desai had indeed made the sweeping commitment--incidentally, without taking the Department of Atomic Energy into confidence--he had later changed his position somewhat. He had told parliament, for instance, that peaceful nuclear explosions, if found necessary, would be carried out in consultations with others though he never clarified who these others were. What she left unsaid was that at one stage Mr. Desai had tried to draw a distinction between a nuclear explosion and a nuclear blast.

One of India's neighbours, China is already a full-fledged nuclear-weapons power and will soon be acquiring a second strike capability and another, Pakistan, is embarked on a nuclear programme which has led its friends to conclude that it is determined to make the bomb. This inevitably raises security problems for this country. Rather than duck the ticklish issue, Mrs. Gandhi dealt with it frankly. While she has pointed out that it is far from certain that India's security would be enhanced by joining the nuclear race with these neighbours, she has agreed that "an in-depth study" of the consequences of nuclear developments in the neighbourhood must be made constantly and that this country should keep abreast of nuclear technology at all times so that "we are not caught napping." This is a rational and reasonable policy framework. But what about its implementation? That would call for a great effort of planning investment and political will. To begin with, the morale of the atomic energy establishment, shattered during the Janata rule, has to be restored. Then it has to be given a time-table and the necessary resources. Moreover, some hard decisions will have to be taken soon in order to keep Tarapore going if the United States decides not to live up to its contractual obligation to supply enriched uranium.

TIMES OF INDIA COMMENTS ON COUP ATTEMPT IN PAKISTAN

BK180615 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Mar 80 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Portents in Pakistan"]

[Text] The Pakistan Government's denial notwithstanding, there has been an attempt to overthrow Genral Ziaul Haq. The central character in the "conspiracy" or the "abortive coup" appears to have been Major-General Jajjamul Hussain (retired) who was thrown out of the army by Mr Bhutto and kept under house arrest until 1978 when he was freed, ironically, by General Zia. Indeed, by refusing to disclose Major-General Hussain's whereabouts to the Lahore High Court--his wife's petition for his release provided the first clue about the trouble to the outside world--and by admitting that 15 junior officers (described as leftists) are imprisoned in the Attock fort, Islamabad has itself confirmed that discontent in the armed forces has broken surface. Whether the alleged conspirators received direct or indirect encouragement from senior serving lieutenant-generals such as the deputy chief of the army staff, Lt. General Iqbal, must remain a subject of conjecture. But there can be little doubt that the present rumblings could be portents of graver events to come.

In dealing with the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan and the U.S. aid offer General Zia may have displayed more astuteness than he is generally credited with. But his stock in the country remains rather low. His is perhaps the most unpopular regime Pakistan has had. Within the army itself he does not enjoy anything like the prestige that even General Yahya Khan did, not to mention Field-Marshal Ayub Khan. He bears the responsibility for Mr Bhutto's judicial murder and thus for alienating vast sections of the Pakistani population from the army. This would have been reason enough to make the other generals regard him as a liability. He has alienated them further by wanting to retire two senior lieutenant-generals while he continues to hold on the post of the chief of the army staff beyond his self-extended tenure which has already ended. The lieutenant-generals--they are both corps commanders--are not prepared to retire until General Zia does and feel strong enough to say so publicly. This may not have had anything to do with the "conspiracy" or the "abortive coup." But it is bound to affect adversely discipline among the officer corps. General Zia's efforts to persuade the lieutenant-generals to become ministers in his cabinet have so far failed. There is no guarantee that these will succeed before March 23, his deadline for reconstituting his cabinet. Some observers feel that General Zia may have added to his difficulties by rejecting the U.S. package of economic and military aid. But there seems no warrant for this view. This decision makes good sense and adds to Pakistan's bargaining position.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO CRITICIZES INDIAN CRITICISM OF DEFENSE EFFORTS

BK181647 Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0225 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] It is obvious from the statement of the Indian minister of law in the Rajya Sabha that India has reengaged itself in the task of keeping Pakistan weak in the defense field. The minister said: India has warned all nations, including the United States, that any supply of arms to Pakistan will disturb the regional balance and India will consider it as an unfriendly act.

"The need to strengthen Pakistan's defense system is very urgent in the present regional situation. It was, therefore, expected that considering the gravity of the situation India, would adopt a new outlook on regional defense." But unfortunately, that has not been the case. On the contrary, India has redoubled its propaganda against Pakistan's defense requirements.

"It is a matter of regret that, despite being several times more militarily stronger than Pakistan, India has continued its propaganda against us. Besides increasing its military expenditures by millions of repees in the new budget, India has made several other arrangements for developing its military might. The 2.6 billion dollar Soviet loan agreement which India signed last month can be used for any purpose. India's army is 6 times, its air force 10 times, and its navy 12 times larger than Pakistan's. India manufactures 80 percent of its own military hardware. In fact, it is self-sufficient in the matter of arms and ammunition. At present India has 3,500 tanks, which cannot possibly be used in the river and mountainous regions. They are only for the purpose of war on plains. Therefore it is well-known against whom they will be deployed.

"In short, India is constantly increasing its military might. But whenever Pakistan genuinely tries to acquire much needed military hardware, India becomes very sensitive. It even unleashes anti-Pakistan propaganda in foreign countries and brings pressure on them not to give any aid to Pakistan. Both historically and geographically, such acts of India are contrary to peace and solidarity in the region.

"In an interview with an Indian journalist a few days ago, the Pakistan president, reviewing the defense needs of India and Pakistan, said that India should remember that the security of the two countries depends on both their military strength."

Any intelligent person knows that Pakistan will not attack India. Pakistan only wants to safeguard its independence and sovereignty. Thus it cannot remain indifferent toward its defense needs. Noting recent developments in the region Pakistan believes that no conflict can remain confined to a particular area; it invariably threatens world peace.

"The Indian prime minister recently disclosed in the Rajya Sabha that India will not hesitate to carry out nuclear tests in the great national interest. They are ready to explode nuclear weapons for their own security. But whenever Pakistan tries in a meager way to meet its military needs, it jeopardizes India's security. The earlier India changes this attitude, the better it will be for all."

PRC DELEGATION CONCLUDES TALKS IN RAWALPINDI 18 MAR

BK181629 Karachi **Domestic** Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The second and final round of talks between Pakistan and the Chinese goodwill military delegation was held in Rawalpindi this morning. The Pakistan delegation was led by President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Chinese team was headed by Vice Minister of Defense Mr Xiao Ke. The talks lasted over 3 hours. It has been learned that the Chinese delegation will leave for Lahore tomorrow morning on the last leg of its 6-day visit to Pakistan.

TWO GENERALS TO LEAVE ARMY BY END OF MARCH

BK181630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Mar 80 BK

[Text] PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL reports that Lt Gen Faiz Ali Chishti [federal labor minister] and Lt Gen Ghulam Hassan Khan [federal industries minister] will retire from the army upon completion of their 4-year tenure as corps commanders by the end of this month.

It will be recalled that President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, while speaking to newsmen in Rawalpindi yesterday, had said that army officers who are federal ministers or state governors will relinquish their rank as corps commanders.

OLYMPIC ORGANIZATION TO DECIDE ON MOSCOW GAMES

BK191118 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 19 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the Pakistan Olympic Association has been authorized to make its own decision--as an individual body--as to whether or not it will take part in the Moscow Olympics.

Talking to newsmen in Karachi today he referred to the decision adopted by a large majority at the Islamic foreign minister's conference that Islamic states should not directly participate in the Moscow Olympics due to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. However, he said, individual sports bodies have the right to make this decision.